

INTERNATIONAL

Afghan mujahedeen refuse to see Cordovez

Abandon Geneva talks: Khalis

ISLAMABAD, Jan 19, (Reuters): Afghan resistance leaders said today they would refuse to meet UN mediator Diego Cordovez on the eve of talks the Afghan government said could lead to a final settlement to the nine-year-old guerrilla war.

A statement issued by a spokesman for rebel alliance chairman Yunus Khalis also called for the Geneva peace talks sponsored by Cordovez to be abandoned. Cordovez was due in Islamabad on Wednesday to open the new round.

Cordovez wants to give the Afghan nation to the Russians in the name of a political settlement, it said.

"The Islamic Alliance announces that it is not ready to see Cordovez, we are not ready to talk with him."

Peace

The spokesman said Khalis was speaking for all seven parties in the alliance, which is battling the Soviet-backed government from Pakistani bases with Western support.

The rebel statement came a few hours after the Afghan Foreign Ministry said the coming talks could lead to a final settlement in Afghanistan.

An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman said today in Kabul "these talks can be used as a foundation for restoration of peace and stability in the region."

He said Afghanistan would "exert all necessary effort for making the coming round of talks final."

Cordovez has doggedly pursued a settlement since 1982, through visits to Islamabad, Kabul, Moscow, and Washington and mediating indirect talks in Geneva between the Pakistani and Afghan governments.

His coming visit had attracted more attention than earlier trips to Pakistan, coming at a time of intense diplomatic speculation that a peace settlement might be coming closer.

After talks with Pakistani officials, he was due to fly to Kabul, for meetings with President Najibullah and other Afghan government leaders.

Those talks will be followed, probably next month, by talks in Geneva with Cordovez meeting each side separately.

No programme had been made public for his stay in Pakistan. But Western diplomats and

Pakistani officials had said they had also expected him to have talks with the mujahedeen leaders.

Cordovez's mission is to obtain a settlement covering withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and a halt to Western and other arms supplies to the rebels.

He has refused to become directly involved in negotiating about a compromise government acceptable to all the warring Afghan factions, saying this was for Afghans only to decide.

But he hinted before leaving New York that he might be seeking to promote such discussions. "For this settlement to be effectively implemented, it is essential, it is indispensable, that Afghans themselves should become involved in discussions to set up a government," he told reporters at a briefing.

Khost

Soviet and Afghan infantry units are holding the key city of Khost in eastern Afghanistan despite nightly rocket strikes by mujahedeen.

Western diplomats said the Soviet and Afghan armies also appeared to have launched a new campaign to drive resistance

fighters from the environs of Kandahar in the southeast.

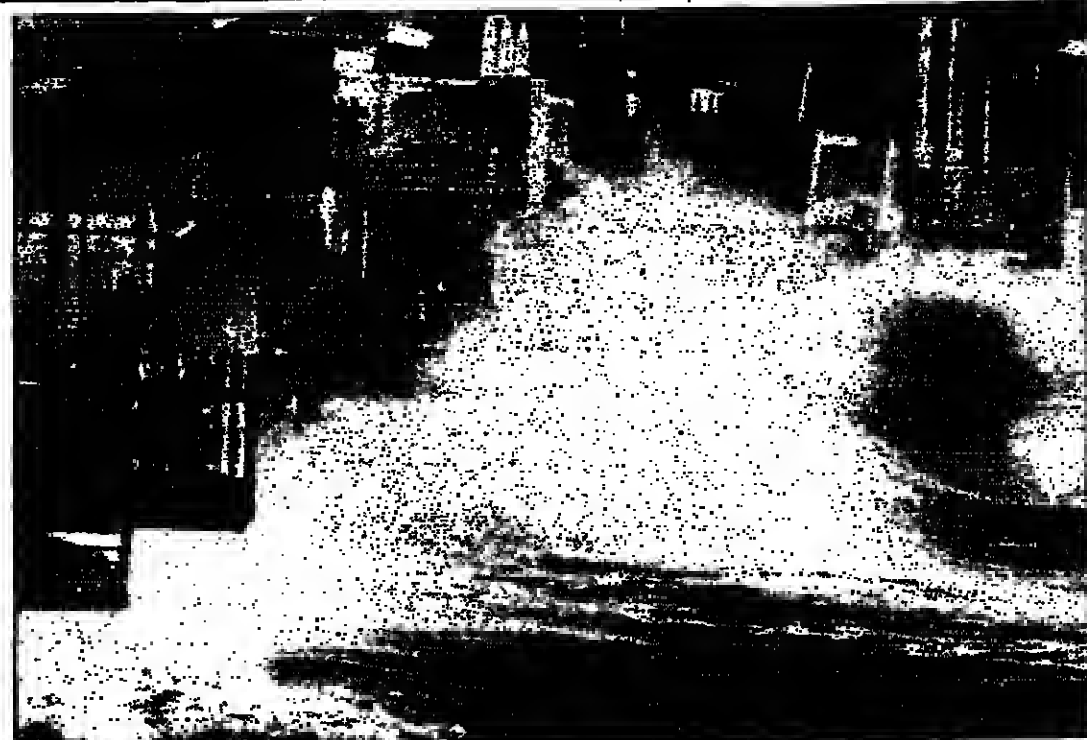
Diplomats said recent travellers reported the key road leading into Khost from the west was lined with Soviet T-62 tanks, heavy artillery and major Soviet posts every 10-15 kilometres.

Khost itself 25 kilometres from the Pakistan border, was under the control of Afghan government troops, but they had to dodge sporadic rocket attacks by Muslim insurgents, the sources said.

Western diplomats said the Soviet-Afghan campaigns to recover the city and the new push around Kandahar may be intended to consolidate the Afghan Army's bold on strategic cities in the event of a settlement at UN-sponsored peace talks next month.

President Najib, government and East bloc officials held a military parade in Kabul on Monday to celebrate breaking the resistance's three-month siege of Khost.

Official Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad, said Afghanistan's top brass gave speeches and decorated soldiers for what it termed their "grand military performance."



A winter storm that battered southern California, generated high waves causing heavy property damage along the coastline. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aden seeks return of Ali Nasser

MANAMA, Jan 19, (AP): South Yemen has demanded that North Yemen hand over former President Ali Nasser Mohammed to face execution, following his sentencing last month in absentia, the Gulf News Agency reported.

The agency, reporting from Aden, said the demand was contained in a statement issued by South Yemen's Supreme People's Council.

The statement said the extradition of Ali Nasser and others who were "fleeing justice... would be in line with international law and norms."

The council was chaired by its President, Heider Al Attas, who was named to replace Ali Nasser after the bloody, 12-day conflict between rival wings of the ruling Marxist party in South Yemen in January 1986.

Ali Nasser was sentenced to death last month along with 34 of his supporters after the supreme security court convicted them of "high treason." Of the 34, 19, including Ali Nasser, are living in exile along the mountainous border regions inside North Yemen.

Ali Nasser was once quoted as saying that some 40,000 supporters had joined him, threatening to use them to stir fresh fighting inside the Red Sea state.

As president, he had forged steps towards unity with North Yemen and the government of Al Attas is pledged to continue the same bid.

Khomeini appears in public

NICOSIA, Jan 19, (AP): Iranian Television on Monday showed Ayatollah Khomeini at a meeting of families of war victims, the first such appearance to be broadcast in more than a month.

On the same day, Iranian leaders met in Tebran to discuss Khomeini's decree that government has absolute power, a statement that gave weight to demands for economic reforms to help the poor.

The 87-year-old leader was shown seated on the balcony of his home in the northern suburb of Jamana, listening to speeches delivered by officials. He did not speak.

When the meeting was over, Khomeini rose to his feet unaided and waved at the crowd before walking back into his home, as his son and close confidant Ahmad stood in the background.

Khomeini last appeared publicly Dec 15, a day after a report in the Times of London that he was seriously ill. In a broadcast of that appearance, he appeared frail, but on Monday he seemed reasonably fit for a man of his age.

Seven die in US as storm heads east

NEW YORK, Jan 19, (AP): A potent storm dumped up to 60 centimetres of snow in the mountains of the west after battering California's coast with large waves that destroyed a restaurant, washed away part of a hotel and damaged celebrities' beach homes.

At least seven deaths were blamed on the storm in California before it headed east. In addition, five people died on ice-slickened highways in Missouri and six others died Monday in plane crashes linked to fog in four states.

More than 20 inches (50 cm) of snow fell at Monticello in southern Utah, while parts of Colorado and Arizona also were hit hard, the National Weather Service said. Up to 2 feet of snow fell in the Sierra Nevada range in northern California.

Waves

The heart of the storm was a low pressure system so strong that it sent barometers plunging to a reading of 29.25, the lowest level measured at Los Angeles in 100 years of record-keeping, forecasters said.

It created 14-foot (4.3-metre) waves at Los Angeles and dumped 1.25 inches (three cm) of rain in downtown Los Angeles.

"This is the strongest storm so

far this winter," said weather service meteorologist Larry Riggs.

Elsewhere, freezing rain iced roads in the northeast, closing schools and causing numerous traffic accidents.

Dense fog kept airliners from landing or taking off from Chicago's O'Hare airport during the morning, and fog was implicated in four fatal plane crashes in the nation's midsection Monday.

Three died when a private twin-engine plane crashed in dense fog and burst into flames near Little Rock Air Force base in Arkansas, and a private jet crashed in dense fog near Houston's Hobby airport, killing one person and injuring six, authorities said.

Snow caused delays and cancellations at Denver's Stapleton airport and closed a section of Interstate 25 north of Denver.

About 100 vehicles were briefly stranded on a snow-clogged mountain pass in the Tehachapi mountains in southern California, the California highway patrol said.

Tigers storm jail and free 55 inmates

COLOMBO, Jan 19, (UPI): Tamil Tigers today stormed the jail in the eastern province capital of Batticaloa, disarmed the guards and freed 55 inmates on the fourth day of a rebel campaign that has disrupted civil administration in Tamil areas, police said.

An official at police headquarters in Colombo said 25 members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the largest guerrilla group fighting for an independent Tamil nation, were involved in the early morning attack.

While most of the rebels remained on guard outside the facility, an eight-man assault team broke inside and disarmed the staff of 24 guards, the official said.

The guards were forced at gunpoint to unlock all of the cells, freeing 40 prisoners under trial on criminal offenses and 15 others convicted and serving sentences.

The official said no guerrillas were being held at the facility as the LTTE had assaulted the jail three times since Tamil rebels launched their war in 1983 for independence for the northern and eastern provinces, where minority Tamils dominate.

Immediately after the jail-break, a house-to-house search

was launched for the rebels and the escapees in Batticaloa, 225 km east of Colombo, by police and Indian troops deployed to enforce a 1979 Indo-Sri Lankan accord aimed at ending the civil war, the police official said.

The pact was accepted by smaller rebel groups, but the LTTE refused to disarm and has shifted the brunt of its operations to the eastern province after being forced out of its northern Jaffna peninsula stronghold by Indian troops in fighting that has left hundreds dead since September.

The LTTE Saturday launched a campaign to disrupt civil administration in the east and north, threatening to kill any government employees who reported to work in all but essential services, including mail, utilities and transportation.

Officials said the movement has been successful, with central government offices and courts in major towns and districts closed for a second day, their employees staying at home.

In Vavuniya, 190 km northeast of Colombo, the district military chief called a meeting of senior officials, civic and religious leaders, police and Indian Army officers to discuss ways of thwarting the LTTE agitation.

Taiwan plane missing

TAIPEI, Jan 19, (AP): An airplane with 11 people aboard was overdue on a flight to an offshore island today, an airline official reported.

Mable Chen, spokeswoman for Taiwan Airlines, said the eight-seater BN-2 left Taitung, a fishing port 262 kilometres south of Taipei, this morning for a 20-minute flight to Orchid Island but was diverted to nearby Green Island because of bad weather.

Officials said Navy patrol boats began a search for the twin-engine plane when it failed to land on Green Island.

Ms Chen said the plane carried two crew members and nine passengers including a one-year-old boy. She said all aboard were Taiwanese.

Taiwan Airlines, a small domestic carrier, operates six daily flights between Taitung and Orchid Island.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN mediator

ISLAMABAD, Jan 19, (AP): United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez starts a trip to Pakistan and Afghanistan today with the hope of a breakthrough that will end the war in Afghanistan and send home 115,000 Soviet troops.

"We share in a buoyant mood and share raised hopes for an Afghan peace," said one senior Foreign Ministry official. But he told the Associated Press: "Pragmatism demands that we are not swept off our feet, until we really see the Soviets marching homeward."

Political asylum

MOSCOW, Jan 19, (AP): Two American communications specialists have defected to the Soviet Union while visiting as tourists because they like the Soviet way of life, an official said today.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov identified the Americans as Theodore Branch, 43, and Cheryl Branch, 40, of Pennsylvania, and said they were granted asylum by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the nation's parliament.

Swedish minister

BEIRUT, Jan 19, (AP): Swedish Defence Minister Rone Carlsson met today with Lebanese government leaders for talks on South Lebanon, where Sweden maintains a contingent in a UN peacekeeping force.

Carlsson, who arrived in Beirut with four aides in the morning, drove straight from the airport to the heavily fortified mansion of Justice Minister Nabih Berri, who heads Lebanon's largest Shi'ite Muslim militia.

American held

TOKYO, Jan 19, (Reuters): Police in Tokyo said today they had recovered a stolen Stradivarius violin worth more than 10 million yen (\$75,000) and arrested an American who had been trying to sell it.

A police spokesman told Reuters an international search had been conducted for the violin since it was stolen from the shop in New York last November. He said the arrested American was a dentist named Robert Hwang.

Shevardnadze

MOSCOW, Jan 19, (Reuters): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl today at the end of a fence-mending visit marked by a new Kremlin initiative on arms control.

Shevardnadze, the most senior Kremlin official to visit Bonn in five years, spent nine hours with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher during a three-day stay which both sides say gave new impetus to ties after a lengthy chill.

Camp siege

BEIRUT, Jan 19, (Reuters): "We're tired. We want to go back to barracks," said a 20-year-old militiaman today as he awaited orders to end a three-year siege of Beirut's battered Shatila refugee camp.

"It's time for peace. It's been a tiresome war," added the fighter from the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia, of battles around the Palestinian camps in Lebanon in which about 2,500 people have died.

Sikh upsurge

CHANDIGARH, Jan 19, (Reuters): Punjab police chief Julio Ribeiro vowed today to defeat Sikh separatists who have begun the New Year with an unprecedented upsurge in killings in the north Indian state.

Ribeiro told a news conference in the state capital Chandigarh the gunmen had regrouped and rearmed after crackdowns last year by the 70,000 police be commanders.

Oldest citizen dies

LAUSANNE, Jan 19, (UPI): Switzerland's oldest citizen, Berntha Bournoud-Bucher, died at a rest home today just one week before her 109th birthday.

Mrs Bournoud-Bucher was born Jan 27, 1879, at Vevey on Lake Geneva.

Surprise visit

ATHENS, Jan 19, (Reuters): Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, made a surprise visit to Greece today for talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, Athens Radio reported.

Bomb explodes

LUSAKA, Jan 19, (Reuters): A bomb exploded near an African National Congress (ANC) office in Lusaka today but two senior officials of the organisation escaped unhurt, witnesses said.

Mideast talks

DAMASCUS, Jan 19, (Reuters): Syrian President Hafez Al Assad discussed the latest developments in the Middle East with US Senator Arlen Specter today.

Stop smoking to reduce risk of a stroke

NEW ORLEANS, Jan 19, (AP): People cut their risk of strokes by 50 per cent if they give up cigarettes, and even life-long smokers benefit from kicking the habit, a study concludes.

Although smoking is clearly a cause of lung cancer and heart attacks, until recently there was no convincing evidence that it causes stroke, the nation's third-leading cause of death.

The latest data, based on the long-running Framingham Heart Study, confirms that cigarettes also contribute to strokes.

"There is a clear-cut relationship between cigarette smoking and stroke, and it's not too late to quit at any age," said the study's director, Dr Philip Wolf of Boston University medical school.

Wolf presented his data at a meeting of the American Heart Association.

The study was based on 4,255 residents of Framingham, Massachusetts, a suburb west of Boston, who took part in the heart study. During 26 years of follow-up, 459 of them suffered strokes.

Those who had high blood pressure were twice as likely as people with normal blood pressure to have strokes. Although smoking was not as important a risk factor as elevated blood pressure, the researchers found that it did increase the risk of stroke by 40 per cent in men and 60 per cent in women.

However, when people quit smoking, their risk of stroke also fell. Two years after quitting, their risk had decreased significantly, and after five years it was the same as that in non-smokers.

"Whether you are a long-term smoker or a new smoker, there is even more evidence now of the benefit of stopping in terms of preserving your brain and your quality of life," said Dr Bernadine Healy of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Wolf said the link between smoking and strokes may have been missed in earlier studies, because smokers are often thin and have lower blood pressure. This could partially protect them from strokes. However, when his analysis compared people of the same weight, there was clearly a strong association between strokes and cigarettes.

Six more deaths reported in Philippines

Aquino men leading in local polls

MANILA, Jan 19, (AP): President Corason Aquino's candidates headed today for a virtual sweep of mayoral posts in the Manila area as the military reported six more deaths in the regional election campaign.

Candidates endorsed by the President or her "people power" coalition also were leading in other key races in yesterday's nationwide regional elections.

But two of the President's relatives were faring poorly, apparent victims of a public backlash over allegations that her family was building a "political dynasty."

Police arrested a soldier and two civilians who disrupted vote counting in the Manila suburb of Makati early today. The military said communist rebels snatched some 4,000 ballots and burned some of them in front of terrified

poll clerks in Pampanga province, north of Manila.

Police said teachers counting votes at the town hall in Makati fled early today when the three men arrived and fired a shot. The teachers resumed the counting after police arrived and detained the culprits. No one was reported injured.

Counting also was disrupted in four districts of suburban Quezon city and several other places for reason ranging from power blackouts to replacement of allegedly partisan poll supervisors, the government-run Philippine News Agency reported.

In Santos city on the island of Mindanao, vote counting was stopped last night when the local poll chairman disappeared, the government's television station reported today. It said Cristo

Limbagon was feared kidnapped by unidentified men.

On the central island of Cebu, a civic group conducting an unofficial count said it was not including results from the city of Danao because armed men roamed the streets and its messengers were afraid to enter the city.

PNA reported today the first declared winner in a local race. He was administration candidate Liberato Reyna, elected mayor of Dagupan city, north of Manila.

Meanwhile, opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile disputed claims by the military that the elections were the least violent in the country's history. He said the official death toll of 101 was high, considering that the campaign period was far shorter than for previous elections.

Burton never felt apart from Liz

LONDON, Jan 19, (Reuters): Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor never stopped loving each other despite their two failed marriages and his drinking and womanising, says the brother of the late Welsh actor.

Graham Jenkins, whose book "Richard Burton, My Brother," is due to be published in London next week, told Reuters: "It's quite clear they had an understanding that was beyond understanding."

He said Burton, who died from a brain haemorrhage at 58 four years ago, had never felt apart from Taylor despite marrying twice after he and the American film star were divorced in 1976.

"Even when he was married to (fourth wife) Sally, he would still ring up Elizabeth and vice versa," Jenkins said in a telephone interview.

The film stars' first marriage in 1964 lasted for 10 years. In 1975, just 16 months after they divorced, Burton and Taylor wed again — but split up a year later.

"I believe that the second marriage (to Taylor) was premature. If they allowed two years to go by, it would have been for good," he said.

Their romance began during the making of the film Cleopatra, when Burton, as Roman general Mark Antony, paid court to Taylor who was in the title role as the Egyptian queen.



Burton with Liz

Waite still alive

BEIRUT, Jan 19, (AP): British Ambassador John Gray said in remarks published today that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who disappeared a year ago, was still alive and held somewhere in predominantly Shiite south Beirut.

"The British government has not received any solid information about Waite's whereabouts," Gray was quoted as saying by the leftist As-Safir and the French-language L'Orient-Le Jour newspapers.

"But we know that he is still alive and held somewhere in the southern suburbs of Beirut," South Beirut is a stronghold of Iranian-backed extremists that are believed to be holding most of the 21 foreigners missing

and feared kidnapped in Lebanon.

Gray said the British government "does not have any offers or proposals to make to the captors."

He also said he was involved in contacts with people believed to have ties with Waite's kidnappers.

There would be "no deals with the terrorists, and they must know that there is no benefit for them in keeping Waite," Gray was quoted as saying.

His remarks came on the eve of the first anniversary of Waite's disappearance after leaving a seaside hotel in West Beirut for a rendezvous with the captors of two American hostages.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Baccouche in Kuwait talks

Arabs urged to support uprising

TUNISIAN Prime Minister Ali Hadi Baccouche yesterday urged all Arabs to back the Palestinian anti-occupation uprising which he said "opened new horizons for the Arab nation."

Baccouche, addressing a press conference, said his country was working to see to it that the uprising remains as a pure act of resistance to the occupation without being marred by political exploitation.

The Tunisian premier who arrived in Kuwait yesterday morning on a 24-hour visit said his country will very shortly resume diplomatic ties with Egypt to end a rupture which dates back to 1979.

He said he told his Egyptian counterpart Ataf Sidqi with whom he met on Monday night at Cairo airport that arrangements for the move will be made public soon.

Asked on his encounter earlier yesterday with HH the Amir of Kuwait, Baccouche said he was highly impressed by the Amir's "in-depth analysis, and his Arab nationalist spirit which manifested itself in several of his attitudes and instructions for the sake of (inter-Arab) cooperation."

He also heaped praise on HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah with whom he also conferred yesterday. Baccouche spoke of Sheikh Saad's "profound judgement, accurate analysis and his Arab personality."

Baccouche sounded his country's all-out support for Kuwait against any infringement on its sovereignty, security and independence.

He, meanwhile, deplored that Kuwait "known for its moderation, balanced and peace-seeking policy," was made the first to suffer from the repercussions of the Iran-Iraq war.

Kuwait and Tunisia, he went on, are like-minded on Arab issues and share the same aspiration for unity of the Arab world.

On his visit here which will be followed by trips to other Arab countries, Al Baccouche said it was intended to acquaint Arab leaders with the policies of the new Tunisian political leadership which took over last November.

"It is also an opportunity to consult with our brothers at a time when the Arab nation is passing through a critical phase of its history, be it regarding the Iraq-Iran war which threatens the Arab world, the situation in the Arab Maghreb, or the popular uprising sweeping the (Israeli) occupied territories," he said.

He added that contacts between Kuwait and Tunisia will proliferate at more levels than one in the near future, and emphasized that his current visit strengthened cooperation between the two sides.

The Amir yesterday received Baccouche and his accompanying delegation. Baccouche handed over a message to the Amir from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Baccouche yesterday held official talks with Sheikh Saad. He is accompanied by a high level Tunisian delegation.

Baccouche is also due to visit Bahrain, The United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman with messages from Ben Ali.



HH the Amir receives a message from the President of Tunisia, delivered by Tunisia's Prime Minister Ali Hadi Baccouche (left). Picture at right shows HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah (right) receiving Baccouche (centre) at the Kuwait airport.



US will maintain presence in Gulf: Sen. Symms

By Jadranka Porter

A US senator yesterday dismissed suggestions of setting up a UN peacekeeping force in the Gulf as an inappropriate course of action in the war-torn region and said that the US will maintain a presence in the Gulf waters even after the cessation of hostilities.

Steve Symms, a Republican of Idaho, arrived in Kuwait from Bahrain where he visited the US servicemen.

He will hold talks with Kuwaiti officials on topics concerning US policy in the Gulf.



Steve Symms

Essential

"I would be very uncomfortable if I had to rely on the UN peacekeeping force in the Gulf," Symms told reporters on arrival in Kuwait, suggesting that such an arrangement would not be effective in the Gulf's hostile environment.

"We would like to see the cessation of hostilities between Iraq and Iran and when that problem is solved the US can reduce the number of ships and manpower that are here," he said.

But he stressed that the US had no plans to completely withdraw forces from the Gulf which, he

said, were essential to safeguarding the interests of his country and its Western allies.

The senator, who fully supports the current US Gulf policy, said he met in Bahrain with US sailors whose fathers served on US ships in the Gulf 25 years ago.

Cooperative

He said that Kuwait was most cooperative to the US but declined to elaborate on the issue.

Turning to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories Symms said that the US was willing to be a partner in the peace initiative but stressed that it could play only a limited role.

"We are willing to help reach a settlement between the Israelis and the Arab world but we cannot do it as a nation. That has to be done between the Palestinians and Israelis," he said adding that the US has tried to have an even-handed policy on the question.

Supervision of catering and food services

KUWAIT'S Public Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi has endorsed a plan for the supervision of catering and food services which is intended to improve existing services with strict enforcement of catering contracts with the ministry.

The minister ordered that an ad-hoc committee be formed to supervise food and catering services, under the chairmanship of Fouziya Abdullah Al Awadi, of the ministry's Food and Catering Department. The committee will inspect catering services to ensure that contract obligations are met, he said, and will report its findings to the Finance Department. He added that the committee will be authorised to review account books and other relevant documents.

Jordan universities welcome Kuwaiti students

KUWAIT'S Cultural Attache at the embassy in Jordan Youssef Mohammed Horahit, in an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, said Jordan's four universities followed an educational system similar to that used at Kuwait University, and based on the American system.

He said that Jordanian universities admitted 65 per cent of its applicants to the Faculty of Arts and 85 per cent to the Faculty of Science, adding that these universities welcomed Kuwaiti students either as full-time students or for summer courses.

He added that there were also colleges in Jordan for social sciences, which required a performance of 50 per cent on secondary school examinations for admissions. He explained that these colleges teach courses similar to those offered by Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

58 killed in fires last year

A RESPONSIBLE source at Kuwait's General Fire Authority said 58 persons were killed and 293 injured in fires and road accidents last year. The source added that 2,232 accidental fires and rescue cases were reported during the same period.

Twenty-two of those injured were firemen performing their duties, he said, adding that more care must be taken by residents to prevent such accidents.

Final diploma examination

THE Indian Embassy in Kuwait said yesterday that the final diploma examination (written) of the National Board will be held at the embassy on Feb 1 and 2 from 9 am.

Candidates taking this examination should report to the embassy on the above dates.

Arrested

AN Iraqi was arrested yesterday by Abadi customs officers for trying to smuggle 14 bottles of whisky into the country in his car.

Ministry denies law to ban import of cars

SOURCE at Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry have denied that the ministry intends to issue a law prohibiting the import of 1988 model cars by anyone except designated agents. Sources added that local ministry regulations allow licensed establishments and importers to import car models dated within the last five years. The unified Gulf specifications for imports, which were intended to be applied this year, will not apply to cars, the source said.

Meanwhile, sources at the Ministry of Commerce will survey licences and establishments that import machines and equipment in an effort to better organise equipment imports.

Fountains maintenance

AN official source at Kuwait's Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources announced that the authority had signed a KD160,000 contract for the maintenance of a number of fountains in various areas of the country.

The source said that the fountains in the Damsan, Sheraton, Shaa'h, Salmiya, Municipality, Andalus and Keifan gardens will be maintained, under the new contract, and that maintenance of fountains along Fahd Salem Street, the Green Belt Garden, Adailiya, Omariya, and the Rumailiya water towers had been completed.

The source added that the authority had advertised a number of tenders for maintenance and landscaping of roads.

Zakat House distributed KD682,000 per month

THE director of Kuwait's Zakat House, Abdul Qader Al Ajel said that the Zakat House distributed KD682,000 monthly to 834 needy families last year and that donations reached KD1.261 million, which was distributed to 1,962 families. He added that KD182,000 had been given in co-interest loans to 145 families and 162 students received support from the fund during the same time period.

Al Ajel said that Zakat House had also distributed clothing to 2,584 orphans during 1987 at a cost of KD25,840 and that 21,531 needy Muslims received a total amount of KD36,900 as Fitra Zakat. He added that the project which sponsors orphans in Kuwait and abroad continued throughout 1987, with 13,174 orphans receiving support sponsored by 9,978 Muslims.

Al Ajel explained that money collected by the Zakat House reached KD1,897 million and collected donations reached KD76,000 in 1987. The house supported 226 Islamic organisations and centres with KD365 thousand and distributed KD332,500 in relief materials to Muslims in Africa, Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan and Bangladesh in addition to the distribution of 65,000 copies of the Holy Quran in four countries.

Zakat House organised the slaughter of 7,363 sheep for Muslims in eight different countries on the first day of Eid Al Adha, he said, adding that the money for the sheep totalling KD191,825 had been collected from Muslims in Kuwait.

Moscow will try to establish Gulf multinational force

THE Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait, Ernest Zverev, was quoted yesterday as saying that his country will continue its attempts to establish a multinational force that shoulders the responsibility of security in the Arabian Gulf waters.

Meanwhile, the Soviet ambassador, in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, maintained that a decision by the international community to halt arms shipments to the party that rejects peace calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war "will be very difficult" to implement.

Reluctant

"Taking a decision (such as this) will not be enough. The importance lies in the availability of effective and practical means to implement this decision," said Zverev, in reply to a question on a follow-up resolution that would impose sanctions on either Iran or Iraq.

"We are accused by some Arab and Gulf governments of being reluctant to support such a resolution," he complained, adding that the Soviet Union's position is "misunderstood because Moscow has been observing the sought arms embargo for seven years and a half."

Withdrawn

The Soviet diplomat noted that his country is not sure whether the international community can force America, Israeli and Western nations to abide by such sanctions once adopted by the UN.

Before adopting such a resolution, he suggested, there should be legal changes inside these

countries that would coform with an arms embargo against the party that insists on continuing the war.

On the issue of an international naval force in the Gulf, Zverev told the newspaper that all foreign presence in the Gulf should be withdrawn and replaced by a multinational force that would be entrusted with keeping safety of navigation in the Gulf waters.

Such an idea has been proposed by Moscow months ago, but several nations, including the United States rejected the proposal, claiming an international presence would provoke Iran which will perceive it as a move directed against it.

The Soviet Union has not given up its attempts on this idea, Zverev said.

Unified prices

MUJEL Al Mutairi, the head of the pricing committee of Kuwait's cooperative societies, said that the committee had priced 916 items last year, adding that 377 items had unified prices throughout the cooperatives.

The committee reduced prices on 234 essential consumer items and 64 items, new to the market, were priced for the first time, he said. He added that the committee was established to control unnecessary increases in consumer items and attempts to unify prices at all cooperatives, offering essential items at reasonable prices.

Committee to implement genetic engineering plan

NIZAR Mulla Hussein, the Deputy Director General for Research and Biological Sciences at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) announced that a national committee had been formed to implement plan for genetic engineering and biotechnology. The committee will have representatives from the Ministries of Health and Oil, Kuwait University and KISR.

The plan, to be developed in cooperation with foreign experts, includes steps to develop national manpower and to conduct research in genetic engineering and bio-technology, he said. Research will focus on genetic diseases common in Kuwait, Hussein added and the production of necessary preventive measures. The plan also includes the use of genetic engineering to improve agricultural and animal production, in fighting pollution and in areas of the oil sector, he said.

Mulla Hussein explained that one of the most significant achievements of KISR in genetic engineering was the development of training programmes in this field for local manpower. KISR also organised a seminar on genetic engineering last month and began a programme for educational study abroad for students in this area, he added.

New Muslims

JEDDAH, Jan 19, (GNA): Seventeen people embraced Islam today before the chairman of the main court.

The new Muslims are 14 Filipinos, including four women, one Briton, a Ugandan woman and an Indian.

The chairman urged them to be faithful to the teachings of Islam.

Palestinian children protest at embassies

SCORES of Palestinian children yesterday marched on the embassies of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and Austria, against Israeli actions in occupied lands.

A communique distributed at each embassy said the Israeli practices in quelling Arab uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip "have returned humanity to the law of the jungle."

"We appeal to you in the name of humanity and on behalf of the Palestinian children who defend human values to pass this memorandum to your governments whom we urge to support our just cause at the Security Council," the note said.

Denunciation

It also called for "denunciation of the Israeli practices" and for "work toward the adoption of a resolution that calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from our homeland and granting our people the right to self-determination and an independent state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

The children first proceeded to the French embassy, where they delivered a copy of the appeal to the French Ambassador Marcel L'Auloy, who promised to "telex the memo to President Francois



Mitterrand."

The Palestino community, estimated at around 300,000 is the largest expatriate group in Kuwait, which has a population of 1.7 million.

The children were dressed with the traditional Palestinian kaffiyeh or headress, but instead of the chequered red-and-white cloth the headress was made of the colours of the "Palestine" flag — red, black, white and green.

About 100 children, boys and girls whose ages ranged from 5 to 14, took part in the march. Schools are in recess in Kuwait at present for a mid-term holiday.

It was not clear why the Austrian Embassy was targeted along with the others.

Patrols intensified

AN official source at the public relations department of Kuwait's Interior Ministry said the ministry had intensified its patrols at the camping areas.

He said that many reckless drivers were seized, adding that patrolmen used private cars as a camouflage.

On the happy occasion of their Marriage

LIDIA and ALIRIO

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KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Iran urged to observe six-month truce

A KUWAITI newspaper yesterday called on Iran to observe a six-month truce in fighting with neighbouring Iraq to show goodwill and pave the way for current GCC-Iranian dialogue to reach its desired end.

Al Rai Al Aam newspaper, commenting editorially on the Iranian attack on Monday against northern Iraq, accused Tehran of pursuing a nerve-breaking policy of procrastination to prolong the conflict in the region.

It also accused Iran of being bent on war and expansion of the conflict area for geographic, economic, historical and other internal considerations.

Al Rai Al Aam challenged Tehran to declare a six-month truce with Iraq to show good intentions and start real and positive dialogue with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states on means to halt armed hostilities and reinstate peace and tranquility in the region.

GULF PRESS

Call for increased support for Palestinian uprising

UNITED Arab Emirates newspapers, again hailing the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, urged increased support for the Palestinians to ensure continuation of their struggle against occupation.

"The principal achievement of the uprising is the continuing escalation despite all techniques of repression and deployment of tanks and tear gas," Al Itihad said.

"This achievement created political and economic confusion to the extent that Zionist leaders themselves acknowledged that the situation was on the verge of a catastrophe."

It scoffed at Israeli statements boasting of their ability to quash the unrest. "Israel has failed to suppress the will of the Palestinians and this failure prompted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for the first time to offer to negotiate with selected Palestinians an autonomy," it said.

But it added: "If Shamir is hoping such Palestinian personalities would be on alternative to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, certainly he is mistaken. The uprising has clearly underlined a strong cohesion between all Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, people and leadership."

The paper saw no substantial difference between Shamir and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "Their differences are merely tactical that only concern ways to quell the uprising," it said.

"But whether there is an agreement or disagreement, what matters is that Arab states should step up their support for the uprising which proved that it is the sole language the enemy understands."

Another daily said the uprising appeared to be quite capable "of clearing the world public opinion of lies and misleading campaigns that the Zionists have used to discredit the Arabs and the Palestinians by accusing them of terrorism."

"A significant shift in the public opinion is taking place after the world has witnessed the confrontation between stone throwing children and Israeli war machines," the Dubai-based Al Boyan said.

"But if this change is important, ensuring continuation of the uprising by increasing support remains more important," it said.

The English language daily Khaleej Times welcomed the lifting of a siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon by the Amal movement in support of the uprising.

The Dubai-based daily said: "The lifting of Amal's siege of three Palestinian camps in Lebanon would have been a welcome development at any time, but it is particularly so now when the Palestinians need every support they can get to strengthen their resistance to Israel."

It expressed hope that "the spirit of cooperation will endure and lead to a revival of Lebanese-Palestinian affinity that is essential to counter Zionist threats to both Lebanon and the Palestinians."

"Once the Arab cause is considered indivisible, the realisation will be natural that... more help should be provided to them to sustain their nationalist resolve."

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EVENTS

VIDEO CORNER

Amateur sleuths solve murder mystery

By Gail Seery

THE name Agatha Christie usually brings visions of half-senile geriatric detectives, gruesome but very sanitary deaths, with unlikely murderers, who more often than not, are able to commit a great deal of self-damage and still have the presence of mind to thoroughly distort the evidence before fainting in pain. There has been something of a vogue for film adaptations of her work of recent years, and *The Seven Dials Mystery* is another in the series.

However it does differ a little. Christie specialised in the straight detective story — where the solution of the murder was generally supposed to rest on the work of the "little grey cells" or by a study of human nature. This is one of her relatively few and, it has to be said, fairly inadequate attempts at producing a political thriller. Guess who the baddies are — "the Bolsheviks and the Germans."

The film opens with the usual Christie fashionable bouse party. Here we find Ronnie, Bill, Jimmy and Gerry and three stupid flappers, including Lady Oswald's cross-eyed squinting god daughter who takes "hours" to set eight clocks.

The reason for her having to

Sir John Gielgud stars in *The Seven Dials Mystery*

set eight clocks at all is that Gerry Wade, one of the guests, is always so late getting up that they resolve to buy an alarm clock each and set it off, waking him up at 6.30 am.

From there the plot tumbles downhill still further into a mystery of murder, secret societies and amateur sleuths.

If that isn't enough for the Christie fan there are also industrial secrets to be sold, beautiful Hungarian countesses (well, only one really, played by Rula Lenska) and titled folk biding in cupboards, which conveniently adapt from a linen cupboard in a room that is always kept locked, into a suitable

secret hiding place. Don't ask why a secret room needs a linen cupboard, there isn't an answer.

The baddy is genuinely nasty. He has been selling secrets to foreign powers (yawn). "I didn't do it for the money," he avers. "I did it for the pleasure." Fair enough.

Of course, it's impossible to present an entirely straight adaptation for an Agatha Christie novel in today's cinema. There is so little character delineation, and the reader is usually presented with one-dimensional figures rather than believable personalities. This doesn't matter so much on the page, as the main incentive to reading such a book is the puzzle itself. Christie is usually very good at this, and you have to read quite a few before you can detect the formula — you think of the person who couldn't have done it under any circumstances, and you almost certainly have the murderer.

The Seven Dials Mystery contains a suitably Christie twist at the end, and is lifted from banality by the participation of Sir John Gielgud, who as usual, gets by mainly by appearing to play himself. Harry Andrews, who overplays his character so beautifully, and Cheryl Campbell who plays the incompetent "Bun-

dle" otherwise known as Lady Eileen, an amateur sleuth. In what must be one of the silliest lines of all time, she goes to Police Inspector Battle and says, "Can you give me a list of all the secret societies in Seven Dials?"

The only mystery in the *Indianapolis 500* coverage is that no-one took an axe to the film crew and commentators. This is motorsports coverage at its most absurd. The ABC team involved pares what action we could see to a very minimum. Gone are those tedious shots of cars going round and round the track — instead we are given a number of interviews with drivers' wives. "How are you feeling?" "Well, I was a bit nervous before the race, but I'm fine now." "So you're ok now?" "Yes I'm ok now." I was very relieved to hear that. The suspense on that issue had been spoiling the race for me and countless other viewers. And they didn't present us with any of that incident-on-the-race-track nonsense. When something important happens the camera is blissfully pointing the other way, possibly at some hapless car owner who stayed still long enough to be interviewed and then instantly misquoted, or else involved in a sneak raid on the Brazilian TV commentator, or the Japanese TV commentator. Come back Murray Walker, all is forgiven.

Mickey's hitman capers

By Brian Hollis

MICKEY Rourke is one of the hottest talents in Hollywood, but apart from *Year of the Dragon*, all of his big films have been banned in Kuwait for various reasons. His latest release, *A Prayer for the Dying* is all the more welcome as it also stars two other excellent actors, Bob Hoskins and Alan Bates.

Rourke plays a Northern Irish I.R.A. hitman, sickened by all the killing, who is persuaded to carry out a last murder on behalf of a London racketeer. Unfortunately a priest sees him gun down the victim in his parish cemetery and Rourke, in a moment of compassion, runs away. However, he later visits the priest in the confessional, and the latter's vows forbid him from revealing what he knows to the police. The racketeer, however, is afraid one of them will incriminate him, and orders them both eliminated. The plot is complicated by the fact that the I.R.A. also want to eliminate him, and by the priest's niece, a blind girl who falls for him.

The acting of the three principals is excellent, although Rourke's Belfast brogue sometimes slips into Scottish or English, and in spite of some highly unlikely coincidences, there's enough action and suspense to keep our interest up to the end.

The unexpected international success of the French film *Trois Hommes Et Un Couffin* last year, has led to several imitations, two of which are riding high in the American box office. *Baby Boom* is a cute comedy starring Diane Keaton, which explores the world of the modern American career woman. Keaton is an upwardly mobile workaholic who has a convenient but emotionless home life with a fellow corporate bulldozer (Harold Ramis). When some English cousins die and

There is action and suspense with Mickey Rourke (above) in *A Prayer for the Dying*.

leave their baby daughter in her care, her orderly existence is blown apart. However she decides to keep the baby rather than allowing her to be adopted by some fundamentalist Midwesterners, and while trying to cope with nappies, babysitters, fevers and breakages, predictably loses her grip on her job. Consenting to motherhood she moves to the country to bring up her child, but further misfortunes follow her until she eventually stumbles on a solution which combines her marketing talents with motherhood, and of course, she manages to get her own back on the company which dumped her.

The movie pokes fun at several targets — power hungry executives, early childhood education, yuppie obsession with possessions and success and even the urban dream of escape to a pastoral country life.

A Place At The Coast is a sensitive and beautifully shot Australian movie starring John Hargreaves and Heather Mitchell. A young teenager's widowed father falls in love with a young woman at a place on the

coast where they had been coming for Christmas holidays for as long as young Ellie can remember. The new love affair and especially the fact that the woman is little older than herself, radically alters the relationship between daughter and father, and she is forced to discover that life was not meant to be fair. Essentially the film is more likely to appeal to women, although all frustrated romantics should find it quite watchable.

Zoot Suit is a strange U.S./Mexican musical about a gang of Mexicans living in L.A. — a sort of Californian 'West Side Story'. The 1950's dance routines are quite entertaining and generally the performances are okay.

If you just want a good laugh without any brainpower required, try some of the British comedy series such as the *Lenny Henry Show*, *The Russ Abbot Show*, or the Christmas special of 'Only Fools and Horses'.

The films are by courtesy of VFI, Salfway, Farwaha; Video Naut, Salfway, and Video Club, Salfway.

The following events will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Jan 22: children's exhibition, also featuring award winning art works by Kuwaiti children, on loan from the 1987 International Art Exhibition held in Yokohama. Open from 4 to 9 pm on Jan 22. From Jan 23 to 25, open from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 9 pm. Jan 23: seminar on Japanese education; 9 am to 1 pm; Ikebana School — 11 am to 1 pm; piano concert by Cairo-based pianist Junko Nakayama. Jan 24, Ikebana School, 11 am to 1 pm; martial arts and tea ceremony.

Seven films will be shown during the Week in the Hilton's Terrace room. All films are in Japanese with Arabic subtitles. Jan 22, 4 pm. Snow Fairy; 7 pm. The Makiooka sisters. Jan 23, 4 pm. The Dragon Boy; 7 pm. Sanjuri, directed by Kurosawa. Jan 24, 4 pm. The Yamashita Story (judo story); 7 pm. The Longest Tunnel. Jan 25: Tora San's Forbidden Love, a comedy, 7 pm.

A seminar on Japanese business will be held on Feb 3 at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Building from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm.

A token admission fee will be charged for some events. For further details, and confirmation of schedule, contact Tel: 2518155/2518440 or the Japanese Society — 2533000 ext 1156.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Dahiyat Abdullah
Al Salem Gallery
An exhibition of paintings by Arab artist Rida Saleh will be held from Jan 24 to Jan 30 at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. It will be open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

SOCIAL

Japan Week
Jan 21: Kite flying competition, from 9 am to 1 pm, at the Science Club.

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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News via Satellite
- 3.30 Bahas An Mofli: cartoon
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 World News via Satellite
- 4.25 La ilaha ilallah: historical serial
- 5.15 Bain Al Ams Wa Al Youm: Between Yesterday and Today: A look at progress made in various fields.
- 6.00 Songs
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 With Students: hosted by Essa Rushoud
- 7.45 Folklore: local programme, presented by Mohammad Mutairi.
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Photographs: new serial, starring Abdullah Ghaith, Madiba Hamdi, Jamil Rateb, Mohammad Rida.
- 10.50 Ayyam Aalib: last episode, hosted by Marwan Sarraf and featuring Samir Ghanim, Shirin, Imad Abdul Halim.



Perfect Strangers on KTV 2 tonight.

Walid Tawfiq, Marwan Adham, Dalida Rahman and others.
12.25 The Equaliser: featuring Edward Woodward.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.45 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Get Along Gang: cartoons
- 6.30 Micro at Work: "Sorting Things Out". Part 2. A look at computerised mail sorting systems.
- 6.50 The Living Isles: "Beneath the Green-

wood". The evolution of forests after the ice age.

7.30 Growing Pains: "Fast Times at Dewey High". Matt finds a new girl-friend.

8.00 News in English
8.40 Buck James: Dennis Weaver plays the title role of Buck, who operates best in life-or-death situations.

9.30 The World of Strange Power: "From Mind to Mind". ESP, extra sensory power — tonight's subject in this series that deals with paranormal phenomenon.

10.00 Perfect Strangers: "The Rent Strike". Larry and Balki force the landlord to see their point of view.

10.30 Falcon Crest: "Body and Soul". Maggie looks for her son, Kevin.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

MORNING

- 08.00 Opening
- 08.02 Songs and Music
- 08.05 Writers & poets in Arabic literature
- 08.20 Songs and Music
- 08.30 News
- 08.40 Songs and Music
- 08.45 Daily Programme
- 09.00 Golden Collections
- 09.30 Album Tracks
- 10.00 Our First Today
- 10.05 Song and Music
- 10.30 Music with a Theme
- 11.00 Closedown
- 13.30 News on the FM Service.

EVENING

- 21.00 Opening
- 21.02 Pop Scene
- 21.30 News
- 21.45 Point of View
- 21.55 Songs and Music
- 22.25 Musical Celebrities
- 22.45 Daily Programme
- 23.00 Soul with a beat
- 23.30 Choice of the Week
- 24.00 Closedown

FM Services

- 08.00-08.30 Easy Listening
- 08.30-08.40 News
- 08.40-10.00 Easy Listening
- 10.00-13.00 Songs and Music
- 13.00-13.30 Easy Listening
- 13.30-13.40 News
- 13.40-14.00 Easy Listening
- 14.00-16.00 Classical Music

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
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Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Sahara Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahabeh and Ahmadi
Al Burgan Pharmacy
Souk Sabah, F'heel
Jeeb Al Shiyouk
Palestine Pharmacy
Main St.
Jahra
Al Zabra Pharmacy
New Market

Kuwait Caledonians
Kuwait Caledonians will hold Burns Night at 7.30 pm on Jan 28 at Messilah Beach Hotel. Guest speaker will be Bob Crempsey. For details phone 5610673.

Winter Serenade
The Kuwait Players Winter Serenade will be an evening to remember — haute cuisine, music, sparkling and show stoppers, nostalgic ballads, moody blues and celebrated classics performed by Ross, Jenny, Lynley, Reem, Rosie and Carol. Directed by Peter Godfrey, Ros Langhorne and Glenis Muckle. It will be held in the Grand Ballroom, Meridien Hotel, on Feb 1, 2, and 3, Feb 4 Gala Dinner and show at 7.30 pm. For details ring 2656265; 5334695 or 5730641.

Kuwait Welsh Society
New Year's Lunch on Friday, Jan 29, 12.30 pm. For details phone 4874548; 3940743/4 ext. 231 after 4.30 pm.

Kuwait Singers
Rehearsals for the May concert will begin on Monday, Jan 18, 7.30 pm in the Sunshine School, Salwa, and will be held every Saturday and Monday. New members welcome. Tel: 5331413.

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsweek
- 30 Omnibus
- 0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 30 Report on Religion
- 45 Country Style
- 0200 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 The A-Z of Hollywood (ex. 2)
- 27 (Christian Reaction)
- 30 Citizens
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 30 Discovery
- 0400 Newsweek
- 30 Being Human
- 40 Book Choice
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Financial News
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Report on Religion
- 45 The World Today

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Al Nimir Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Al Salmiya
The Living Daylight
Starring: Timothy Dalton
Al Hamra
Ya Sadiqi Kam Tasawi (Arabic)
Starring: Farouq Fishawi, Safiya Al Omari
Drive-In
Al Nimir Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Al Firdous
Kaash (Hindi)
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Dimple Kapadia
Al-Fahabeh
Li'adam Kifayah Al Adalah (Arabic)

Ladies Tea Party
A saree fashion show will be held at the International Ladies Tea Party on Jan 20 (Wednesday) from 4.30 pm at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. For details phone 5317390, 5386297.

Neelam Ghar
Neelam Ghar, a quiz show, will be held on Jan 22 at Carlton Tower Hotel. Admission by invitation only. For details phone Zulfikar or Anees — 4814733; 2427388; 2445324 or Haroon Sayeed — 5659336. Contact

The next meeting of the ladies information group, Contact, will be held on Jan 30, Saturday from 10 am at the SAS hotel. Newcomers particularly welcome. For details phone 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

HOTELS

At the Continental
Gardania offers food and beverage service on the Terrace. Daily dinner buffet and on Fridays, lunch buffet with charcoal grilled specialties. Darbar features daily lunch buffet and a la carte for dinner.

Fahabeh Open-Air
Watan Ke Rakhwale (Hindi)
Starring: Dharmendra, Sunil Dutt
Al Jahra
Five Deadly Angels
Granada
Al Bait Al Mal'oun (Arabic)
Salaikhat
Ajantha (Malayalam)
Al Jeeb
Wheels on Meals
Ahmadi Drive-In
Binaat Haratna (Arabic)

PRAYERS

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr | 5.20 am |
| Zuhr | 11.59 |
| Asr | 2.57 pm |
| Maghreb | 5.16 |
| Isha | 6.37 |

At the Ramada Al Salam
Daily lunch, chef's special, and dinner buffet at Coffee Shop: from Sunday to Friday, steak and seafood specialties featured for dinner at El Merissa Restaurant, open from 7 pm to 1.30 am. Family brunch on Fridays from 12 noon to 3 pm. Highlights will be magic, painting competition, games and ship's discovery tour.

At Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiah — features lunch and dinner, open 24 hours, children under 10 years free if accompanied by adults, offer limited to four. Special barbecue evenings held on Thursday night in Al Jawharah supper club. Sumptuous buffet with all the trimmings. On Friday, special Friday buffet for all the family in Al Mubarakiah and Al Jawharah features children's party with band, clown, games and prizes, from 4 pm to 7 pm.

SPORTS

Ahmadi Kart Racing
The fifth round of Kuwait National Drivers' championship will be held on Friday, Jan 22. First round of ladies championship. Races begin at 1.00 pm.

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Diane Keaton returns to her comic roots

When tiger lady becomes a super mum

What happens when a high-powered career lady inherits a 13-month-old baby out of the blue? The answer is hilarious chaos in the new film 'Baby Boom'.

From Frank Durham in Hollywood

THEY called her the Tiger Lady, career woman extraordinaire and an unlikely candidate for the role of a super mum.

But J. C. Wiatt tried to cope with her "business-first" life and instant parenthood when she inherited a 13-month-old baby.

The high-powered career lady discovered living in the fast lane did not combine well with her new responsibilities so she opted out and went to live in the country.

But her business sense was still strong and it positively glowed when her home-made apple-sauce baby food was napped up by eager supermarket tourists. The wheels began spinning and J.C. found she was running a booming gourmet baby food company.

This funny and very human tale is told in a new film called 'Baby Boom', starring Academy Award winner Diane Keaton.

Delightful Diane returns to the comic roots of a career that has included some of the movie world's most memorable performances.

She says she was immediately drawn to the role of J.C. Wiatt in 'Baby Boom'.

She said: "Here I was all by myself, and laughing out loud at the script. Realistic comedies, especially ones written for women, don't come along very often. And J.C. Wiatt really touched me, and moved me emotionally. I felt

for her.

"My character is a confident and successful woman when the film opens. But after this baby invades her very confident life, she falters for the first time, and it throws her off balance and makes her more loving and lovable."

"By the end of the film, she's a richer, fuller human being. She still works, but she also has the capacity to love. It's the best possible combination."

It is an ironic twist to the most important business meeting of her career that J.C. Wiatt discovers she has inherited a 13-month-old baby girl. She exclaims: "I went to Yale and Harvard. I... don't have children!"

Our heroine is typical of today's career woman. After graduating first in her class at Yale and earning her MBA at Harvard, she becomes a management consultant for a top New York corporation making six figures a year. She is known as The Tiger Lady.

Abandons

She is married to her job and lives with Steven Buchner (Harold Ramis), an investment banker, who is also married to his job.

So you can imagine that baby Elizabeth turns out to be a constant source of frustration and confusion for J.C. and jeopardizes her chance of becoming a partner in the firm.

Fatherhood also proves too much for banker Steven, who



Diane Keaton cuddles her inherited daughter in the new film 'Baby Boom'.

abandons the sinking ship.

J.C. in turn abandons the rigours of the city for country life in Vermont... complete with apple orchards, fresh air and folks who live very much in the 'slow' lane.

Resolute, at the change of pace, J.C. finds herself making gallons of home-made apple sauce baby food from the hundreds of apples she has picked from her orchards. Her baby food industry starts to blossom.

After shedding her big city armour, J.C. falls in love with the country town's handsome veterinarian, Dr. Jeff Cooper... played by Sam Shepard.

Everything in her garden is rosy.

Nationwide her 'Country Baby' food business booms. This leads to a tempting offer to return, with Elizabeth, to life in

the fast lane of New York.

But J.C., much to her delight, finds her priorities have changed. She prefers to run her business, her own way, from Vermont, than go back to being The Tiger Lady.

J.C. Wiatt's baby girl, Elizabeth is played by twins Kristina and Michelle Kennedy. Twins were needed because child labour laws limit a baby's working time to two hours a day. And they took to Diane immediately.

She visited the babies each day before filming began, first in New York and then in Vermont, to create a loving working relationship.

Diane would take one baby a day and spend several hours with her alone, walking and playing with her and getting to know her. She became a surrogate mother to the twins,

behind as well as in front of the cameras.

She would sing lullabies to them, feed them and keep them amused for close-ups.

She confessed that working with her tiny co-stars was: "The most fun I've ever had."

Diane continues: "I felt completely relaxed with them because it forced me out of my own self obsession and kept me spontaneous and alive."

Teaching the tiny tots stunts for 'Baby Boom' proved to be an interesting experience. They took more than 20 pairs of glasses home and were taught how to break them. Their performance on the set was quite a spectacle.

Taught

The twins were taught how to eat spaghetti with their hands, smash pasta over their faces and throw it at the floor and walls.

Putting Elizabeth to sleep on the set was a performance in itself. Diane sang lullabies to them, the huge studio lights were dimmed and the hurly electricians, sound men and camera crew were seen tip-toeing around the room. When the child fell asleep, the lights were raised slowly, one by one, the camera turned and the sound men whispered: "rolling".

Starring with the Kennedy twins and Diane Keaton, are Sam Shepard... who co-starred with Keaton in 'Crimes of the Heart'.

Harold Ramis... who is known as the King of Midas of comedy, because he has either written, directed or acted in blockbusters such as 'Meatballs', 'Stripes' and 'Ghostbusters' and the veteran of films television and stage, Sam Wanamaker.

And Charles Shyer and Nancy Meyers have reteamed for the film, with Shyer directing and Meyers producing from their joint screenplay.



Steve Guttenberg, Tom Selleck (centre) and Ted Danson are three busy urban professionals whose lives turn to bedlam when a six-month-old turns up at their doorstep.

A magnum leap to stardom

By Ivor Davis

PALMSPRINGS, Calif.: "We all came into this thing with something to prove," says Steve Guttenberg, one of the trio of stars in Three Men and a Cradle, the new comedy from Disney's Touchstone Films that has all the earmarks of being a blockbuster. What he has to prove, Guttenberg explains, is that he can do more than play a rookie cop in Police Academy and its many sequels.

It isn't necessary to explain what Ted Danson and Tom Selleck are trying to do. On any list of actors who need a hit movie, Selleck and Danson are Nos 1 and 2.

While promoting the picture here recently, the irony of the situation became clear. Guttenberg, a successful film actor who works constantly, was present only as a voice on a satellite telephone from Ireland where he is filming another movie. But no one doubted that had he been there in the flesh he would not have generated as much excitement as would his two co-stars.

In the lobby of the Marriott Desert Springs Hotel tourists were falling over themselves to catch a glimpse of their TV heroes. If only it were as easy for Selleck and Danson to transfer that excitement to the big screen.

Selleck, best known from his starring role in TV's Magnum, P.I., has tried it three times in High Road to China (1983), Lassiter (1984) and Runaway (1984). All three movies failed to launch him as Hollywood's natural successor to Clark Gable, action man, hero. There was something too small about the 6-foot-4-inch glamour boy's personality for the big screen.

Likewise Danson, a stirring masculine presence in the NBC-TV sitcom "Cheers," has failed to generate leading-man heat in the movies Little Treasure (1985), A Fine Mess (1986) and Just Between Friends (1986).

Both men are hoping that Three Men and a Cradle will make the difference. Certainly it should for Selleck, the papa bear of this womanising bachelor trio whose lives are

turned upside down when a baby is left on their doorstep. Selleck comes across as sensitive, compassionate, warm and, more important, a compelling screen presence.

Career

According to Selleck, his movie career has been huddling along nicely. He insists his films have made money and led to bigger roles. "Each year I've had better and better offers," he says. "The years I didn't do films it was by choice. Also the three-month break I have during Magnum excludes a lot of stuff."

Some of that "stuff" was leading roles in Raiders of the Lost Ark and Silverado. But, he says, he is confident enough to have rejected numerous multipicture deals with studios. "They're great for security and they make great headlines. But if you have faith in yourself it's better to be a free agent," he says.

The general feeling of box-office success hovering around his current effort, however, is boosting the already self-confident Selleck. ("Three Men and a Cradle," which opened last year, earned more than \$10 million in its first week.)

"I don't like to count on anything," he says, "but it already seems to be doing good things for me as far as offers go."

"It has been a question of my saying, 'Should I do this film next or that one? After 'High Road,' they asked me why I did two period pictures back-to-back. They were the best scripts I had at the time. Maybe now I'll plow more," he says.

Planning could mean a stint on Broadway in "Mister Roberts," something he relishes, but admits is a "terrifying prospect."

Danson could use a dose or two of his "Cheers" character Sam Malone's cocky masculinity. But he too doesn't agonise long and hard about his lack of a movie blockbuster.

"I'm your basic neurotic actor, but I don't have any deep fears on that score. Basically, what I'm doing now is television. When I stop doing that I'll do movies and eventually something will hit," he says.

Danson calls himself a realist. It takes energy to be a movie star, something the show's schedule doesn't leave him with much of.

"When you do one show ('Cheers') for eight months a year you're not going to turn around and do a De Niro-like transformation during your hiatus. It's just not the time to do that," says Danson.

But there's nothing like working alongside Selleck, says Danson, to give what confidence you can muster a nasty jolt.

"You definitely take stock of your physical attributes when you stand next to Tom," he says, laughing. "There's definitely some ego-hashing going on internally. But it was great to feel insecure around him because that was appropriate for my character Jack in the film."

Selleck plays Peter, an architect who takes in two roommates: Michael, a young, goofy cartoonist, and Jack, a narcissistic, insecure actor.

"He (Selleck) is the daddy. Michael (Guttenberg) is the kid and I (Danson) decided to be the leading lady," says Danson. "I drew on every feminine bit of me that I could muster — a lot of my mom ended up in Jack. He was as different from Sam Malone as he could be. If you counted hormones Sam is heavily on the male side; Jack has a lot of female stuff in him."

Protests

Selleck protests that those who would cast him as only a larger-than-life hero are missing the point. "I always wanted to play fathers," says Selleck. "I asked my agent to find me daddy parts, but she said they don't see me like that."

The fact that "Three Men and a Cradle" was an ensemble piece delighted him, he says. "It's much more suitable for my background and training," says Selleck. "I've liked all the pictures I've done, but I wasn't looking for star vehicles. I'd take a supporting role. I'd take one scene if it was well-written."

Selleck is in his eighth and last year with "Magnum." Danson has one more year of "Cheers." Then it is out in the cold world competing for films, maybe even against each other.

By Ivor Davis

EVA Marie Saint was born on the Fourth of July and she is an American national treasure. She may never have commanded the salaries or attention garnished by the oisier glamour queens of the movies, but she has never given a bad performance and her sagacious help has elevated more than one less-than-spectacular film.

The list of her leading men reads like a "Who's Who" of theatre and film, and stretches over several generations: Marlon Brando, Henry Fonda, Rod Taylor, Jason Robards, Montgomery Clift, Gregory Peck, Paul Newman, Cary Grant, Richard Burton, Warren Beatty, Bob Hope, Yves Montand, Jackie Gleason, Tom Hanks, Martin Sheen and Karl Malden.

And her directors are no slouches either: Alfred Hitchcock, Vincente Minnelli, Delbert Mann and Elia Kazan, who saw her on Broadway in the early '50s in Hortow Footie's The Trip to Bountiful (opposite Lillian Gish) and chose her to play the shy, convent-educated daughter of a longshoreman in On the Waterfront (1954). It was her first movie and her only Oscar (for Best Supporting Actress).

Today, at 63, Saint still uses her real name; is married to her first and only husband of 36 years, director Jeffrey Hayden; has her own face and figure, two grown children and one grandchild; and is hip enough to play Cybill Shepherd's mom on "Moonlighting."

"It's not just yuppies who watch that show," says Saint. Middle-aged people love it, even

Eva Marie Saint brings a touch of class on screen

older people. It has the "most incredible following."

Saint promised herself never to do episodic television and she has stuck to it, so much so that when she was cast opposite Richard Kiley in last season's TV movie "A Day in the Life," she knew it had a good chance of becoming a series (which it eventually did) and requested that her character be killed off.

"I knew it was good and that it might go on for five years," she says. "If that happened with me in it there would be many things I couldn't do."

Travel, for instance. She recently visited her hometown of Delmar, near Albany, N.Y., and found the six houses in which she grew up.

"I went around knocking on doors and people let me in so I could show my husband where I was a little girl," she says.

It is not that she doesn't like to work, she explains. On the contrary, hers is one of the husier careers.

"I enjoy the freedom of being a free-lancer," she says. In fact, she will go anywhere, anytime to work in the theater, particularly if her husband is directing.

"That's my favourite time in our marriage," she says, "when we're working together. It's the best of both worlds."

How was Saint persuaded to appear in "Moonlighting?" One day at lunch my agent said, "Are you sure you won't do

weekly TV?" and I told him I was sure. But he also asked me what my favourite show was and I told him "Moonlighting." A few weeks later they gave me a script in which Robert Webber as Maddie's father was cheating on his wife and they wanted me for the wife. I loved it, so I thought I would do that one."

That led to six more episodes because Maddie Hayes (Shepherd) gets pregnant. The scriptwriters needed new situations to write about so they gave Saint and Shepherd mother-daughter scenes.

"There are lovely scenes when she tells her father and me that she is pregnant. She and I communicate in a modern way, then I help my husband understand."

Discovered

Meanwhile, Saint discovered that weekly TV has its moments.

"It's nerve-racking," she says, "because you usually get the dialogue the day of the show or late the night before. So all you can do is jump in with both feet and somehow get through it. Then you begin to enjoy the excitement of being on the edge that way."

Saint knew "Moonlighting" was popular, but had no idea how involved its audience is with it.

"I don't keep up with the ratings," she says, "and it's not until you go out of town that you get this fantastic response and

everybody asking, 'Who's the father of Maddie's baby?'"

The funny thing is, Saint doesn't know.

"They don't write that far ahead," she says. "I asked the producer and he didn't know. I think they work it in at the last moment."

One of the unexpected perks of her work on "Moonlighting," she says, was developing a friendship with Shepherd.

"I enjoy her so," she says. "I visited her before the twins arrived (Shepherd recently gave birth to real-life twins), but I had to leave to do a film in Dallas and she had them when I was away. She was so excited and she was surrounded by books on twins. She was taking good care of herself. She's a terrific lady."

In Dallas, Saint filmed the TV movie "Breaking Home Ties," inspired by a Norman Rockwell painting of the same name, it tells the story of a Texas farm family in the '50s trying to deal with the departure of their only son for college. It also stars Jason Robards, Claire Trevor and Douglas McKean.

"Jason and I hadn't seen each other in six or seven years, although we've worked together before," she says. "We're like a couple of old bookends. He has this wonderful boyish sense of humour and he tells great stories. When you've worked with someone like that you pick up like old friends."



Eva Marie Saint: an American legend

Early in her career Saint incurred the wrath of then-powerful Hollywood columnist Louella Parsons.

They were at an awards dinner in Hollywood when Jack Benny delivered a torrent of praise to introduce the young Saint. When she stood up to take a bow she was so nervous all she could utter was one tame - by today's standards - four-letter word. Most guests roared with laughter, but Parsons was so outraged that she used the episode to launch a savage vendetta against the actress.

Saint overcame that and another embarrassing incident — her strapless bathing suit slipped down to reveal a topless Saint during a live TV play — to chalk up an amazing list of films, including "Raintree County" (1957), "Exodus" (1960), "All Fall Down" (1962), "The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming" (1966) and "Grand Prix" (1966).

Awe

One co-star who inspired something akin to awe, she says, was George C. Scott with whom she appeared in last year's TV The Last Days of Patton.

"He was so professional," she says, "and it wasn't easy because we were filming the scene where Patton was dying in a hospital south of London. The location man must have thought it was a great spot, but by the time we got there it was the tourist season and the planes were flying over every couple of minutes. We would start these emotional scenes, then have to stop and start and again because of the noise."

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

WATER PILLS MAKE THE BODY LOSE EXCESS WATER

QUESTION: What are water pills? How do they work?

ANSWER: Water pills are diuretics, medications that make the body urinate more and lose excess water. It is odd that, in our language, vitamin pills give us vitamins, but water pills make us lose water. Diuretics also rid the body of excess salt.

Diuretics are widely used to treat high blood pressure, which is common in this country. They also are used for people with heart failure because they reduce the amount of fluid the heart has to pump. Milder diuretics are used by women who suffer premenstrual bloating.

There are three basic kinds of diuretics — thiazides, loop diuretics and potassium-sparing diuretics. Each works slightly differently, but they all cause the kidneys to work faster and put out more, but less concentrated, urine. People on diuretics usually notice they urinate more, but the urine is paler than normal.

Diuretics have risks and benefits. Thiazides can cause dizziness and weakness and can dangerously reduce the body's levels of potassium and other minerals.

Loop diuretics are very potent and must be used cautiously because they can cause dehydration, low blood pressure and reduced potassium levels. Potassium-sparing diuretics don't reduce potassium levels severely, but they can cause impotence and menstrual disturbances.

Because of the risk of potassium depletion (which can cause heartbeats irregularities), doctors often advise people who take diuretics to eat bananas, tomatoes or other foods high in potassium. Some people also must take prescription potassium supplements.

Whatever the reason or diagnosis, if you are taking a "water pill," you should understand the purpose of the medication and not deviate from the schedule you have been given. As you can see, despite their wide use, diuretics are potent medicines and should be used as prescribed.

QUESTION: You probably don't like to discuss name-brand products, but won't you say something about the use of the sweetener aspartame? It seems like I read something different every day.

ANSWER: It's true that the product aspartame (NutraSweet) has been in the

press quite a bit lately. It was even the subject of an investigation by the General Accounting Office of the United States, which sought to verify the process by which the FDA approved the product for general use. The GAO issued a 100-page report that gives some indications to help answer your question. It found that the process by which the FDA approved the product as safe was indeed proper. In addition the GAO stated that the FDA is conducting adequate follow-up studies to monitor the safety of aspartame's use. Because all seemed in order on these two counts, the GAO made no recommendations.

But the controversy may not be over. Twenty-eight out of 69 scientists responding to the GAO questionnaire said they felt more research was needed in areas of neurological function, brain tumors, seizure, headaches and adverse reactions in children and pregnant women. The FDA stated that it believed aspartame was shown to be safe, and that therefore more research in these areas, although useful, was not needed to demonstrate safety.

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ANDY CAPP



By Smith

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

DO what you feel in your heart to be right — Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt, US statesman (1884-1962).

Dream of recovering control of China fades

By Dan Biers

TAIPEI, (AP): President Chiang Ching-Kuo carried to the grave a fervent desire to recover control of his mainland China homeland, but the intense commitment to that goal is likely to die with the passing of Taiwan's ageing leaders.

The nationalist Chinese government arrived in Taiwan 39 years ago after losing a civil war to the communists on the Chinese mainland.

Chiang Kai-Shek, who led the retreat to Taiwan, was obsessed with recapturing the mainland, and after his death in 1975 his son, Chiang Ching-Kuo, took up the standard.

The prospect of military battle with the huge People's Liberation Army discouraged an armed return, however, and Taiwan instead channelled its energies into developing one of Asia's healthiest economies.

Will

The Chiang family and many of the two million people who fled with them to Taiwan remained dedicated to the goal of returning, on their own terms, to the land where they were born and raised.

That lingering goal was stated forcefully in Chiang Ching-Kuo's will, which was released when he died at age 77 of heart failure.

"If I were restrained by the years given by heaven... all people and military personnel in our nation should unite and strive together, speed up recovering the mainland, and complete the mission of reunification of China under the three principles of the people," the principles of nationalism, democracy and people's livelihood espoused by Sun Yat-Sen, the father of modern China.

But Chiang's death highlights a demographic fact: the Chinese who arrived after the civil war and dream of returning home are dying off.

Increasingly, the nationalist calls for recovering the mainland are viewed not as statements of conviction but as a way to maintain the party's power, which derives from the claim to be the legitimate government of all China.

The increasingly large number

of native Taiwanese entering the government posts generally are most concerned with the island's local problems, said Lu Ya-Li, professor of political science and National Taiwan University. "They have little knowledge about the mainland."

Many Taiwanese are enthusiastic about visiting the mainland to sightsee or visit relatives and doing business with a country that has a potential market of a billion people.

But for native Taiwanese and the younger generation, who have seen their standard of living shoot up in recent years as the economy has boomed, reuniting with a backward communist China is not appealing.

"Taiwan and mainland China are not far apart, but we felt the trip to China was as mysterious as a trip to the moon," the first two Taiwan journalists to go openly on a reporting assignment to the mainland wrote last year.

"The younger generation is more practical," said Antonio Chiang, publisher of the Journalist, a liberal weekly. "They are not enthusiastic about reunification."

Some Taiwanese now advocate establishing a country independent of China, a proposal unacceptable to the nationalists as well as the mainland communists, who also insist that Taiwan is part of China.

Close

Beijing authorities have said declaration of an independent Taiwan could prompt them to retake the island by other than peaceful means.

Still, forces are at work that could make reunification possible, although not for years, probably not for decades.

If China follows its current policy of capitalist-style economic reforms and opening to the West, the ideological gap could close. And if Taiwan follows its current policy of increasing contacts with China, the distrust and suspicion developed since the civil war could begin to melt.

Once that occurs, however, the talk in Taiwan will not be about recovering the mainland but whether a reunification can be worked out acceptable to both sides.

Indians enforce peace in Jaffna

By Dexter Cruz

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka, (AP): Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna town, once a stronghold of Tamil rebels and scene of fierce battles, is calm today. Peace is enforced by thousands of Indian troops.

The presence of the Indians is felt everywhere in this town of 150,000.

The Indians, who came to Sri Lanka last July to enforce a peace accord aimed at ending the four-year-old ethnic war between Tamil separatists and majority Sinhalese, are trying to restore civil administration, run hospitals, supply food and even help schools reopen.

A group of Colombo-based journalists were taken to Jaffna by the Indian Army recently on a guided tour of the city.

The city, 300 kilometres (186 miles) north of Colombo, still bears the scars of war.

Buildings damaged by marauding and bullets testify to the fierce battle fought between the Indians and the Tamil rebels in October and November.

Curfew Even today, a 12-hour dusk to dawn curfew is imposed.

Indian soldiers stand round the clock guard in newly constructed pillboxes on every lane in the city. Billboards proclaim: "Indian peace-keeping force welcomes you to Jaffna."

For the residents, mostly Tamils, peace is what they long for.

"We have gone through many years of fighting, watching while our relatives and friends died. We want peace, which the Indian government has promised us," said Christine Ponnadura, a Tamil housewife.

The Indians practically run the city. Vehicle owners are required to obtain passes from the Indian military before driving on the streets, owners said.

A local newspaper editor said he had to seek Indian permission to resume publication.

"It is foolish to think the Tamil rebels have disappeared. They have now mixed with civilian population but are not active," said Brig. Manjit Singh, the Indian commander in Jaffna.

"Jaffna citizens were apprehensive at the initial stages but now they know why we are here and expect us," said Brig. R.T.S. Kahloo, who looks after civil administration in the Jaffna peninsula, home of 800,000 people.

On an average 550 tons of food is flown into Jaffna daily, he said.

The Indians claim the city is calm and under total control, but some bitterness against the occupying force lingers among the Tamils.

"Why didn't you go and look at what has happened at the villages instead of Jaffna town," said S. Vikanathan, a 52-year-old Tamil from a nearby village.

"Hundreds of homes have been damaged, many people killed," he screamed at reporters.

The extent of fighting is evident from the Indian government admission that 353 Indian troops have died in battle against the rebels. In addition, 1,127 soldiers have been wounded and 12 are reported missing.

India, which has politically powerful Tamil population of 60 million in southern India, signed the peace agreement with Colombo last July.

Discriminated

Under the agreement, the North and East Provinces where most Tamils live were to receive limited autonomy. Tamil rebels were to surrender their weapons to the Indian Army, and the Sri Lankan Army, mistrusted by Tamils because most officers are Sinhalese — remained in its barracks.



Waite is flanked by Druze militiamen in this Jan 15, 1987 file photo taken a few days before he was kidnapped.

Hong Kong: China's goose that lays the golden eggs

By James L. Tyson

HONGKONG: There's no wall around Hong Kong's "Walled City" slum, but for nearly a century diplomatic barriers have kept out even Britain's most messianic empire builders.

Since Britain gained control from China over all of the colony except the ghetto in 1898, fugitives, drug peddlers, prostitutes, and crime syndicates have found refuge in the 11 acres of alleyways and dilapidated buildings. British rulers left the slum alone, since they did not wish to pique the territorial pride of China, which refused to negotiate the slum's status because it considers British rule over the colony illegitimate.

But last month, as a result of secret Sino-British talks, the Hong Kong government approved funds to raze the slum and turned it into a park.

The greening of the Walled City is a bright sign of unprecedented Sino-British cooperation in the colony, as

Britain prepares to surrender its rule to China in 1997. The colony has needed such a filip for public confidence in the transition from colonial to communist control.

Disillusioned

Only in November last year Britain disillusioned supporters of democracy in Hong Kong when it deferred to Peking and reneged on a pledge to allow direct elections next year.

Activists believe democratic institutions are needed to ensure that China honors its pledge to uphold Hong Kong's free-market system under the principle of "one country, two systems."

Confidence also fell with the 33 percent drop in Hong Kong's stock market index on Oct. 26, following the closing of the stock exchange for four days. Hong Kong was the only exchange to shut down after the worldwide crash, despite being famed for its gritty addition to high stakes wheeling and dealing.

Ian Scott, professor of political science at Hong Kong University, says the government

eased the jitters but further undermined its own credibility by using tax revenues to help rescue the futures exchange.

Western diplomats agree. And in an article in the latest issue of the Harvard International Review, Sir David Wilson, Hong Kong's governor, admits insecurities may be justified.

"It is natural that questions should be asked about the viability of communism and capitalism coexisting," he said. "But I believe that those questions can be and are being satisfactorily answered."

Freedom

Peking has tried hardest to answer these fears. The Bank of China contributed \$42 million to the \$512 million "lifeboat" for the futures exchange. Some Chinese officials inadvertently offered the clearest indication that they intend to uphold Hong Kong's laissez-faire ethos: They lost money. Analysts estimate that China-owned institutions held about 10 per cent, or about \$8 billion, of the stock market's

capitalisation before the market debacle.

But there are other signs that Peking's central planners recognize that the prosperity of one billion Chinese depends at least in part on the continued freedom of the 5.6 million residents of Hong Kong.

It is estimated that 29 Chinese provinces have invested heavily in various sectors of the colony. China has registered some 35 companies accounting for 20 per cent of the total foreign investment in manufacturing, behind only the United States and Japan. It manages 13 department stores and six supermarkets. And the Bank of China in 1989 plans to move into a new headquarters — the tallest structure in Asia — designed by I. M. Pei in the heart of the business district.

Like Hong Kong Chinese, open-minded Peking officials are quick to call the colony China's "goose that lays the golden eggs." Two-thirds of China's foreign investment and 30 per cent of its exports pass through Hong Kong.

One year later, Waite's fate still a mystery

Hostage negotiator a hostage himself

By Ben Dobbin

LONDON, (AP): A year ago today, Terry Waite vanished in Beirut while trying to make contact with Shi'ite Muslim extremists holding two Americans hostage.

It was the Anglican church emissary's first trip to Lebanon in efforts to solve the hostage crisis. He was prepared for the worst.

He left instructions with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Robert Runcie, the Church of England's spiritual leader harrangue any rescue attempt or ransom payment if he was kidnapped.

Waite, 48, father of four, had talked about stepping down as Runcie's personal envoy.

Pressure Hostage negotiation "is not a job you can do forever," he said. "It's not a level of acceptable pressure that you can live with for the next 20 years."

His disappearance remains a mystery. No group claimed responsibility for kidnapping him. No photographs of Waite or messages from him emerged.

But church officials including Runcie, say they believe he is alive, citing recurrent press reports and other sources.

Over the weekend, London Sunday Express quoted Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah as saying that Waite and other foreign hostages were being treated properly, but there could not be any progress toward freeing them until after President Reagan leaves office.

Fadlallah, spiritual head of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hezbollah group, denied giving an interview to the Sunday Express. Nevertheless, observers in the Middle East said Fadlallah had made similar remarks in interviews with Arabic publications recently.

The 230-pound (104-kg) six-foot-seven (two-metres) Waite was last seen leaving the Riviera hotel on West Beirut's seafloor on Jan. 20, 1987.

He went to try to make contact with Islamic Jihad, a pro-Iranian Shi'ite faction that kidnapped Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, and Thomas

Sutherland, acting dean of agriculture at the American University in Beirut, in 1985.

Waite already had helped to free three Americans — the Rev. Benjamin Weir, the Rev. Lawrence Jenco and David Jacobsen — and was reported to be principally seeking freedom for their two countrymen.

Waite was first sent to Beirut in late 1985 after four US hostages wrote to Runcie seeking his help in winning their freedom.

Skilful He had made his mark as a skilful negotiator by persuading Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini to free three British missionaries held in Iran in 1981.

In 1984, he negotiated with Col. Moammar Khaddafi the release of four Britons held hostage in Libya for nearly nine months after a police siege of the Libyan embassy in London.

His brother, David Waite, 41, who acts as spokesman for his family, said Waite's wife, Francis Ruth and Clare, 22, Gillian 21, and Mark 16, believe that Waite will be freed "in God's time."

Waldheim's wartime record is under scrutiny

Austria's embarrassment

By Patricia Clough

VIENNA: While the controversy over the President Kurt Waldheim still rages, Austrians are about to be confronted for a second time with some unpalatable truths about their past.

On March 11 they will mark the 50th anniversary of the Anschluss, or forcible annexation of their tiny country by Adolf Hitler (himself an Austrian) to his Nazi Reich. And as government leaders and academics prepare for the event, the question has arisen: what role should Kurt Waldheim play?

President Waldheim's wartime record is being closely scrutinized by a historians' commission which has been asked to establish whether, as his critics allege, he was actively involved in any war crimes. Their report should be published around the end of January. The President has said he will not step down, but pressure here is mounting.

Many in government circles are concerned his election may have damaged Austria's image abroad. Waldheim's presence during the anniversary, as a symbol of an undesirable attitude to the past, likely would be a deep embarrassment.

Stand

Although Germans, or at least West Germans, have faced up to their actions during the Nazi era, Austrians on the whole have avoided this process. Since they were the object of Hitler's aggression they traditionally thought of themselves as victims, and preferred to forget that many people welcomed the Anschluss, sympathized with the Nazis, and willingly took part in persecution and war crimes.

Chancellor — Franz Vranitzky wants the anniversary to be a time for facing up to the truth. "We must lift up the carpet, open the window, open the door... deal with some aspects of history we are not very proud of," he said. It must be a time for young people to "learn what history is telling us, that we must do everything to avoid these things happening again," he added.

"It is going to be a very painful process," says leading Viennese psychiatrist Erwin Ringel. "People are going to have to come to grips with the fact that we were not only the first victims of Hitler



Waldheim: under pressure

— that we were often collaborators and actors in this terrible time. It is our duty to do this. We must not suppress it any longer."

"Austrians," says the Green Party floor leader, Freda Meissner-Blau, "like to sweep things under the carpet, not to talk about unpleasant subjects."

History "In my class we never learned about it. History always stopped in the middle of the 20th century," says Martin Engleberg, a Viennese Jewish student leader. "It was as though everyone was living in another country during those years." Researchers at the Austrian Resistance Archives, who have worked thoroughly on the history of the Resistance, admit they have failed to document adequately the other side of the picture.

Austria capitulated in 1938 to Germany without a single shot fired in its defence. Many ordinary Austrians genuinely wanted to be part of Nazi Germany.

Many historians say most Austrians welcomed the Anschluss. In 1942 membership of the Nazi party was around 700,000, or 11 per cent of the population.

Other figures indicate how Austrians were divided. Tens of thousands of anti-fascists were put in concentration camps,

2,700 were executed. On the other side, 123,000 people were later tried for Nazi crimes, mostly as concentration camp officials, 13,000 were convicted, 42 sentenced to death but only 30 executed.

Often, defendants were let off by sympathetic juries, says Professor Eva Weinzierl. According to resistance records, numerous leading Nazi figures are living quietly, unpunished, in Austria.

Opportunists After the war some 600,000 people were identified as active Nazis in the Allies' denazification proceedings, but later 500,000 "less seriously involved" were rehabilitated and allowed to vote in 1949.

A high-level committee has been set up to arrange a suitable programme for the March 11 anniversary and it has not yet been decided what part Waldheim will play.

Is Waldheim capable of leading his country in the process of remembering? Or will he, even on this occasion, remain the symbol, as Ms Weinzierl puts it, of the "typical opportunistic Austrian who wanted to get ahead, who put up no resistance, adapted to every system — and likes to forget what he did."

The Christian Science Monitor.

A very slow move toward colour-blindness in court

By Patrick Laurence

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa ended 1987 on a somber note, with a series of executions that brought the year's total to 164 — the highest since 1910.

But there was perhaps a tiny ray of light: evidence of a possible move toward colour-blindness in the courts and on the scaffold.

Among the 164 men hanged were nine whites, including two executed for their role in raping and murdering black women. Their executions may have marked a slight shift away from what is widely seen as racial bias in South Africa's legal order.

In an article written before the execution of the two men for crimes of violence against blacks, Prof. John Dugard of the University of the Witwatersrand said: "Let us be honest enough to admit that the South African system of sentencing is not perfect and, therefore, must inevitably on occasions be guilty of racial bias."

In his writings, Dugard has identified two areas where there is evidence of bias against blacks: interracial homicides and assaults, and interracial sexual offences. "No white has yet been hanged for the rape of a black, and only about six whites have been hanged for the murder of blacks," he says. While, "blacks convicted of the murder or rape of whites are usually executed."

Consciousness Gilbert Marcus, a colleague of Dugard's, offered a cautious assessment of the significance of the recent bagging of the two whites. "There is growing consciousness of the necessity to be colour-blind in sentencing."

Prof. Marcus had earlier pointed out that the number of executions are disproportionately higher for blacks than whites. Of the 164 men hanged in 1987, only nine were white. The rest were either black (110) or mixed-race Coloureds (45). Blacks outnumber whites in South Africa three to one. Of the executions in 1987, 21 were hanged in batches of seven on three consecutive days barely two weeks before Christmas. Their deaths drew little press attention: the largest daily paper reported the 21 hangings in three brief sentences.

South Africa has never had an anti-capital punishment movement of any size. And it has been calculated that South Africa is responsible for nearly half the "official" executions worldwide each year. In 1981, opposition parliamentarian David Dalling told Parliament that this nation hanged more people for a wider range of crimes than any other Western nation.

The country's attitude toward hanging has been described as a "conspiracy of silence," by the late Prof. Barend van Niekerk, of the University of Natal. A key reason, he argued, was that most of the victims are members of subordinate castes.

Demand When Helen Suzman, a veteran opposition parliamentarian, introduced a motion in 1969, calling for the appointment of a judicial commission of inquiry into the death penalty, not a single colleague supported it.

Reflecting on 1987's record number of hangings, Mrs. Suzman attributed them to: the rebellion in the black townships (six were hanged for unrest-related crimes in 1987 and another 38 are awaiting execution); and rising unemployment (robbery and breaking and entering with aggravating circumstances are capital crimes here.)

Prisoners now on death row include the "Sharpeville six" five men and a woman who were sentenced to death for their role in the murder of a black town councillor, in the black township of Sharpeville, in September 1984. Their appeal was turned down Nov. 30.

If death row includes people widely seen as political prisoners — as in the case of the Sharpeville Six — the "conspiracy of silence" is sometimes broken.

Campaign A campaign to save them has begun. Amnesty International, a worldwide human rights organization and several South African groups and individuals such as Suzman are urging President Botha to exercise his prerogative of mercy and stay these executions.

One of the arguments used to back the appeal for clemency — that the killing of the town councillor — was one of four counsellors killed in that area that day — cannot be separated from the general political turmoil that broke out with renewed intensity in the fall of 1984. This turmoil, say many blacks, is a result of the "violent" nature of the apartheid system of racial segregation.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1265 — England's Parliament meets for first time.
- 1593 — Casa Contratacion Board of Trade is formed in Spain to deal with affairs in America.
- 1839 — Chile wins battle of Yungay against Peru-Bolivian federation resulting in dissolution of that union.
- 1887 — New Zealand annexes Kermadec islands in Pacific; US Senate approves leasing Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as naval base.
- 1925 — Soviet Union and Japan form alliance; Britain and China sign treaty of Peking.
- 1957 — South Africa denies port facilities to Indian vessels in retaliation for Indian sanctions against South Africa.
- 1958 — Soviet Union threatens Greece with economic sanctions if she agrees to installation of Nato missile bases on her territory.
- 1964 — British forces quell mutinies of Tanganyika Rifles and troops in Uganda and Kenya.
- 1968 — President Arafat's government in Iraq is deposed, and a new administration is formed under Ali Bakr.
- 1986 — Crowds cheer and dance in streets after apparently bloodless military coup that ousts Lesotho's authoritarian Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan.
- 1987 — Iran fires a long-range surface-to-surface missile into Baghdad and rockets a petrochemical complex in Basra.

By Kathy Cuddihy

Grin and bear it

MY father's stock philosophical comment used to be, "Well, everything is relative." It's a little observation that sounds good and covers all the bases. I've learned that it can be a pretty useful phrase. I've also learned that nothing seems to be quite as relative as pain.

Thankfully, I haven't been a victim of pain too often, but often enough to be able to distinguish between the Real Thing, Lesser Agony, and Minor Misery. Needless to say, whenever I suffer, it's always due to the Real Thing. I know, because anything that shatters my normally high pain tolerance must be pretty bad. With my experience, I resent it tremendously when anyone questions my degree of anguish.



The ultimate example of this came from the mouth of my loving spouse... someone who really should have known better than to challenge my authority. What's more, if he wanted to get into a discussion on the matter, he should have shown a much better sense of timing. But no, Mr Bold chose the inopportune birth of our first child for his dialogue.

"Kathy, this is only the beginning of your labour and already you're grimacing. You'll never make it through to the end if you can't handle the early stages."

Suggestion

"I'm grimacing, light of my life, because it feels like a bolt of lightning has just hit my abdomen. Believe me, if I thought I had an option I'd pack it in for today and try again tomorrow. Better still, we could do this little exercise in shifts."

The last suggestion kept him in line for awhile, until his curiosity got the better of him. "Tell me, Kathy, is this worse than the time you had your tooth pulled at the dentist? Or the time you tore the ligaments in your leg?" Hasn't he just got

the neatest turn of phrase?

The final crunch came with his diagnosis that my real problem was a low pain tolerance. Sheesh. What can you do with someone who has absolutely no concept of the Real Thing?

Some genius hit the nail on the head with the quote: "Man endures pain as an undesired punishment; woman accepts it as a natural heritage." We're probably referred to as the weaker sex because no one actually knows how much we have to put up with. We stoically bear our frequent aches and pains because there's just not time to sit around and

moan. Who would prepare the lunch boxes or find the missing school shoes? Who would write notes to the teachers... or letters to the in-laws? And who would look after sick men?

I know pain is relative, but how painful can a cold be? Does the victim of a stubbed toe really have to have his dinner brought to him because he can't move from the couch in the TV room where his leg is propped up?

Of course, these aches and pains are seldom bad enough to bother a doctor. Just had enough to keep the little woman in constant attendance. Pain is supposed to be a

physical thing, but a lot of times it's heightened by the imagination — either our own or someone else's. If we have an affliction which everyone insists is "so painful," we feel a certain obligation to express our suffering a little more audibly, even if it's not all that bad. On the other hand, we sometimes endure more discomfort than necessary, simply because the malady sounds serious enough to be worthy of at least Lesser Agony.

I recently suffered a tennis injury that a doctor diagnosed as a sprained ankle. When, after 3 1/2 weeks, it didn't improve, I sought a second opinion and learned that I had a cracked bone, torn ligaments and pulled muscles.

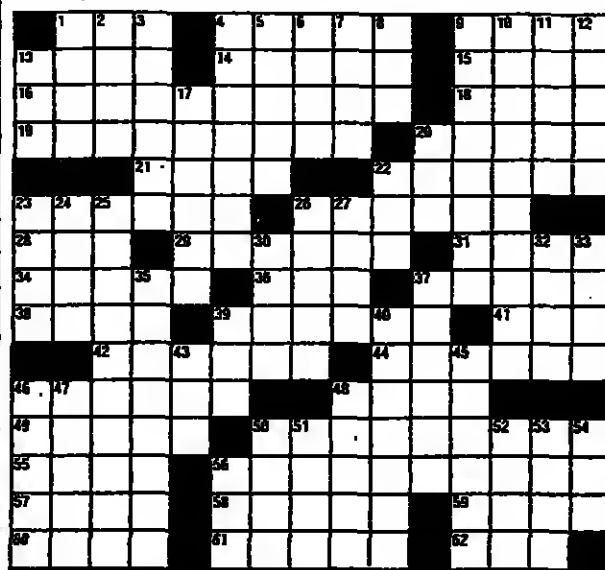
"You're one tough lady to have put up with all that without treatment," said the doctor. All what? I thought I only had to recover from a slight sprain, and that's kid stuff. Now that I know what's really wrong, though, I have leaped from Minor Misery to the Real Thing.

Pleasure

Every once in a while, pain (someone else's of course) can give a little bit of pleasure. For sometime my husband suffered terribly (so he says) from tennis elbow. Desperate for a cure, he finally resorted to acupuncture. The affliction even defied this treatment, so the acupuncturist resorted to rather extreme methods: sticking bits of wood in the elbow and then letting them burn. Gruesome. As the perspiration glistened on my husband's face and he contorted his features into painful grimaces, I whispered a little observation, "I think what we have here is a case of low pain tolerance."

The shock took his mind off his elbow. Then he gave a weak smile and muttered, "Touche." My husband doesn't complain about tennis elbow anymore. I'm not sure if it disappeared by itself or if he just has the problem in better perspective....

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | 46 Yield | 48 king | 23 Part of a yard |
| 1 Suitable | 49 Trimmed, to | 24 — Petina | 25 Baseball's — |
| 4 "Give a man — | 50 Phil Silvers hit | 26 Homer epic | 27 Spider nests |
| he can sail..."; | 55 C'est — | 28 Land measure | 32 Cinnabar and |
| Thomson | 56 Hand grenades, | 30 Land measure | 33 N. Frisian island |
| 9 — dos (folk | so-called | 35 Citronlike | 37 Ensnares, of old |
| dance | 57 The Thames, at | 39 Nourished | 40 Desperado of |
| movement) | Oxford | 43 Le demier — | 45 ASCAP's "Alley" |
| 13 "Winnia — Pu" | 58 Anxious | 46 Morocover | 47 Untrue |
| 14 Trim | 59 Lemon and lime | 48 "Love for Three | 50 — yellow |
| 15 Islands off | additives | Oranges" | 51 — even keel |
| Galway | 60 Holland: Abbr. | 52 Actor Ray | 53 Requisite |
| 16 Ramark, from | 61 Andrews and | 54 Onager | 56 Postal abbr. |
| Aesop's fox | Wynter | | |
| 18 Tanse | 62 Wynter's | | |
| 20 Money in | companion | | |
| Manchester | | | |
| 21 Black Hawk's | | | |
| followers | | | |
| 22 Barrels' widest | | | |
| parts | | | |
| 23 Mozart hero | | | |
| 26 Place for | | | |
| blackberries or | | | |
| blackbirds? | | | |
| 28 Hockey name | | | |
| of fame | | | |
| 29 And other things | | | |
| 31 USN aviation | | | |
| officers | | | |
| 34 Certain exams | | | |
| 36 El —, Spanish | | | |
| hero | | | |
| 37 Lingon or logan | | | |
| followed | | | |
| 38 Record | | | |
| 39 Strawberry, in | | | |
| Paris | | | |
| 41 Congar | | | |
| 42 Hosted on TV | | | |
| 44 Certify (to) | | | |

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
MAKE SURE OF THE SET

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 7 4
♥ Q J 7 5 2
♦ J 5
♣ J 2

EAST
♠ A Q J 9 8 3
♥ Void
♦ 8 4 3 2
♣ Q 9 5

SOUTH
♠ 6 5
♥ A 10 9 8 6 4 3
♦ A K 7
♣ 6

The bidding:
East 2 ♠ South 3 ♥ West Pass North 4 ♥

Opening lead: King of ♠. When you have mastered the art of defense at bridge, you have arrived—good defenders are worth their weight in gold. Here's your chance to put your skill in the West seat at a world pair championship, with the title hanging in the balance. Your defense on this hand could make the difference between victory and a fourth-place finish.

The bidding is not remarkable. Had your club suit been better, or with support for partner's suit, you might have entered the auction. Indeed, five clubs has its chances, so to do well, you must make sure you defeat this contract, which is not as easy as it seems.

You choose the king of clubs for

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BLUE BEAMS STEEP
ROSE EXTOL AERO
OVER THE MOUNTAIN
WED HERO MOILED
BILT EBDN
REWARD AVE MOR
ELLITE SERENADE
LASH CROSS EPEE
ETHEREAL PALOS
TEY ACIO SELENE
SNED ANTS
ESTEEM ASEA ATIS
DANCERY THE LIGHT
ARTY EELER SIRE
MASS RAINS MOON

your opening lead, on which partner furnishes the five. How do you continue?

You are off on the right foot if you shifted to your singleton spade. Partner's jack wins and declarer's six fools nobody; since your card was the deuce, it had to be a singleton. Partner continues by cashing ace of spades. What do you discard?

If you discarded the four of clubs in an attempt to tell partner that you don't want him to play another round of that suit, the most we can do is award you an E for Effort. Partner knows that both declarer and you are out of spades, but what he can't guess is that he can promote a trump trick for you by playing a third round of spades.

You have to do something to attract his attention, and you have a spectacular resource at hand. Discard the ace of clubs! That surely tells partner that you do not expect to make any more tricks in the club suit, and there is no hurry about a diamond shift. Therefore, he should play a third spade, and your king of trumps becomes the setting trick.



Buying nostalgia at a price

By Audrey Smith

Times they are certainly a-changing! Once upon a time you had to be 50 years dead and old to be famous, suddenly you were famous, enjoying adulation you sadly needed in your lifetime.

Artists, writers, composers were garlanded with sentimental succor unknown to them in life, as they struggled to paint, write, compose. And often, like Mozart, they died at a tender age.

Now all that has changed. The pop and film worlds, in particular, generate memorabilia sales across the globe, producing vast sums for every kind of trivia stars have even been loosely associated with — personal and professional.

Recently, George Harrison's very first guitar, which was bought from a school friend in 1956, and which had a damaged neck joint repaired by brother Peter, was auctioned for \$3,960. The sale room only expected \$800.

George paid the large sum of \$3 for it, the money borrowed from his mother, Louise. "Still in the Beatles' instrumental world," another guitar raised \$1,000. The "Fifth" Beatle, artist Stuart Sutcliffe, showed a painting in a Liverpool Art Gallery in 1960. It was bought by Mr John Moores — of the famous British Littlewoods Football Pools family — and for it he paid \$65.

Sharing a flat with John Lennon, Stuart was persuaded to

These days, the slightest association with a modern pop star can add an instant fortune to the value of the strangest things

spend this money on a Hofner President bass guitar and join the Beatles.

Sadly, Sutcliffe left the boys in 1961 and died that same year in Hamburg, of a brain tumour at the very young age of 22. So his guitar never even reached a recording studio.

If you had a sum of \$110,000 to spare you could recently have equipped yourself with Elvis Presley's 1963 Rolls Royce Phantom V touring limousine. Specially built for Elvis, there were detachable extras like air conditioning, a cocktail cabinet and tinted glass electric windows. No ordinary runabout!

Mind you, Elvis never actually used it. He just ordered it and left it in one of his garages!

It certainly paid to be around the stars in those rock'n' roll years. Some lucky doctor who treated Presley for a "dry, sore throat" 15 years ago was given a Patek Philippe gold wristwatch and someone has just acquired this for \$990. Quite cheap really!

Unique

An extremely unique piece of memorabilia which now rests in somebody's precious collection is a copy of the marriage certificate of John Lennon and Yoko Ono (not the original thing). Obtained from the Reg-

ister Office in Gibraltar, where the couple were married on 20th March, 1969, it changed hands this summer for £3,300. Ah, memories, memories!

Or perhaps you would like to grace your drawing-room with a superb Steinway Baby Grand Piano, used for recordings by British pop star, Elton John. Price £1,760.

A real treasure for film buffs — of which I am one — is a signed programme of Oscar Awards (the 37th ceremony) autographed by a host of silver screen stars, including Greer Garson, Audrey Hepburn, Jane Fonda, Charlton Heston, etc., etc. Plus a black and white photograph of Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews clutching their precious Academy Awards.

Nostalgia

The nostalgia is completed by an autograph book containing signatures of John Wayne, Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, Barbara, Barbara Stanwyck, Jack Lemmon and others. All for £150.

Somewhere there must be a table or shelf graced by a unique picture of Lord Olivier and Marilyn Monroe in a rare relaxing mood during the filming of *The Prince and the Showgirl*. Signed by photographer Dezo Hoffman in silver ink, the single print is worth £680.

You can certainly be rich in your lifetime and still be alive when rumour hath it you are dead. Recently, a clapped-out 1968 Volkswagen "Beetle" that would normally be ready for the scrapyard was fought over, because it had special claim to fame. It was the actual VW Beetle pictured on the Beatles' Abbey Road album. Because the car had the number plate 2B 1F, the rumour started that Paul McCartney was dead and had been replaced by a look-alike! All because, at the time, Paul was actually aged 28! Someone bought this macabre association vehicle for more than £2,500.

World-famous restaurants, like the international Hard Rock Cafes, rush to decorate their walls with gold and platinum discs of Beatles, The Who, Elvis, the Stones, bought in at vast sums from £5,000 to £10,000 each.

Even Beatles garters find a place of honour. Odd items which have proved to have world-wide appeal recently include two printed cotton Beatles' dresses (circa 1964) supposedly worn at a Beatles' concert somewhere in Britain and worth an amazing £500 each.

John Lennon's chauffeur recently parted with a 1971 letter containing phrases like "You've been a good lad over the years and faithful — if you ever need a reference, tell us what you need." It was signed "John and Yoko" and turned out to be worth £500.

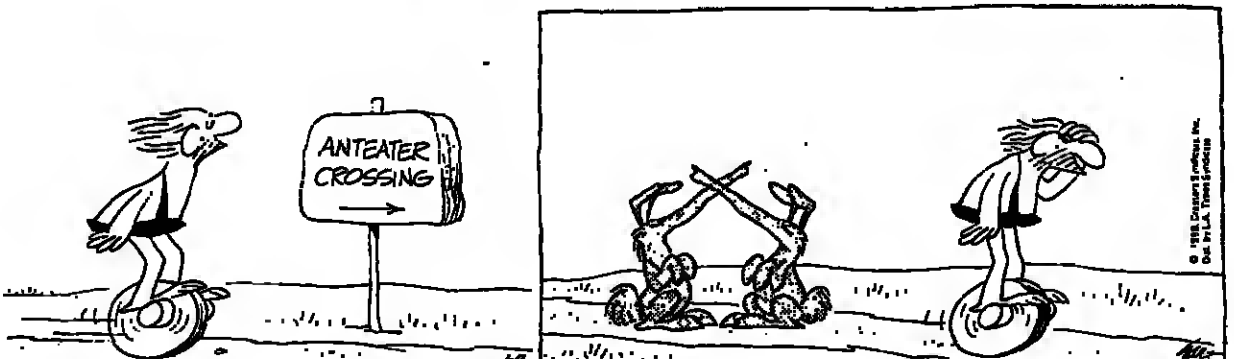
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

This is going to be an interesting day for you. You will be able to do something more positive. You should leave yourself with enough time for a personal matter. Be cordial.



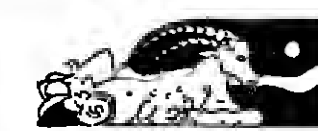
Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will have to deal with a person who is always complaining. You will be compelled to take sides, sitting on the fence is no longer possible. You will be better able to face up to the facts. Be sensible.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

The Moon's more favourable influence coupled with that of Mars will help you to face up to change. You should not allow others to impede your progress. However, nor should you ignore their points of view. Be firm.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

The financial prospects are better but you must continue watching your expenditure. You should not allow your emotions to lead the way. Venus's influence will help you in a personal relationship. Be considerate.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You should try not to get things out of proportion. There will be some tensions but you will know how to deal with them. Venus's favourable influence will help you to deal with a more personal problem. Be less solemn.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should have a bit of a tidy up before the mess becomes unwieldy. You must try to control a certain tendency towards nervousness. Something that is important to you will proceed well. Be less serious.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will tend to be a little too bold and audacious. A matter of secondary importance will take up a little too much of your attention. You should not place too much trust in your intuitions, let reason prevail. Be optimistic.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

The Moon's influence will tend to be more positive and you will have a better idea of what is the right thing to do. You should not attempt to do too much all at once. Your health needs a little more careful attention. Be moderate.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be able to demonstrate your skill and experience. It will require a little bit of ingenuity to deal with a personal problem. You will receive some support from an unexpected quarter. Be objective.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

Despite some setbacks you will be able to make quite good progress. You should do all you can to meet your commitments. Make sure you do not exceed the financial limits you have set yourself. Be magnanimous.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will be able to achieve something positive where your personal life is concerned. You must be on the lookout for mistakes made by others as well as by you. There is no time to waste. Be to the point.

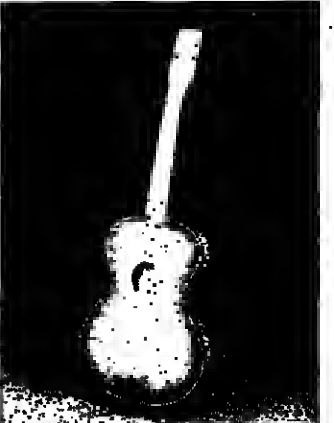


Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

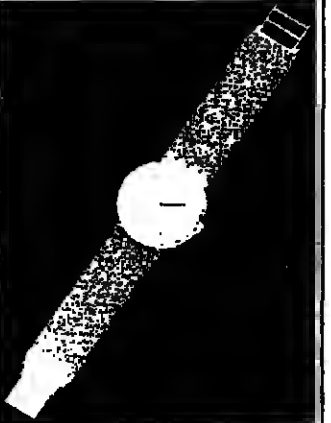
The more favourable planetary influence will help you to straighten out a rather complicated domestic affair. You should not allow yourself to be misled by appearances. Live and let live should be the rule just now. Be frank and tactful.



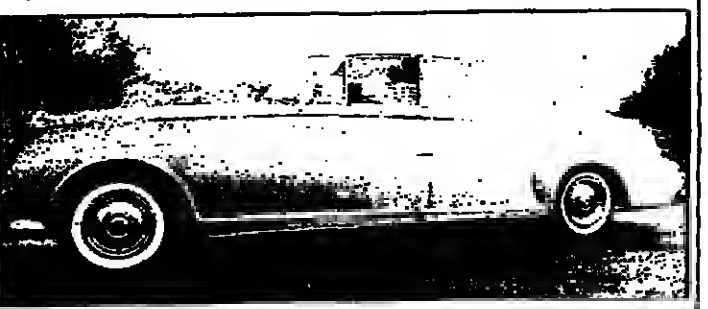
An early photo of the Beatles John Lennon, George Harrison, and Stuart Sutcliffe realised £570



Ex-Beatle George Harrison's first guitar bought for £3 from a school friend went for \$3,960



Elvis Presley's 14 carat gold watch sold for \$990.



Elvis' Rolls Royce Phantom V fetched \$110,000 at a Sotheby's auction

PRECIOUS handmade carpets are the products of long months of labour requiring great skill and patience. Besides being utilitarian objects, they are a source of pleasure to their owners.

A beautiful carpet is like a fine painting; it holds the eye. It is also an investment which will retain its value as the years pass.

Contemporary Turkish carpets are made by local masters who use materials and designs characteristic of the region in which they work. After careful checking for quality and a first washing, these carpets enter the domestic and foreign markets through the hands of famous dealers.

Until recent times all artifacts had to be handmade, but modern technology and mass production have replaced skills and techniques traditional for thousands of years. In our day handmade works are rare, and among them are the beautiful and functional knotted carpets made using traditional methods developed for over 2000 years.

Carpets, whose weaving can take months or even years of skill and effort, are pieces that can be kept and handed down from one generation to another, gaining in value as their antiquity increases. Each region has its own techniques

and traditional designs practiced by its anonymous artists.

Carpet weaving and making is collective work using skills passed on for generations. Families, tribes, or even whole villages work collectively, pooling their special skills, knowledge, and expertise. The methods of manufacture and the different raw materials used produce distinctive carpets, characteristic of the region in which they are woven.

Handmade knotted carpets are used for various purposes by the local people in their region of origin. Besides being used as rugs, carpets serve such purposes as tent screens, paintings, cradle and sofa covers, wall hangings, and prayer rugs.

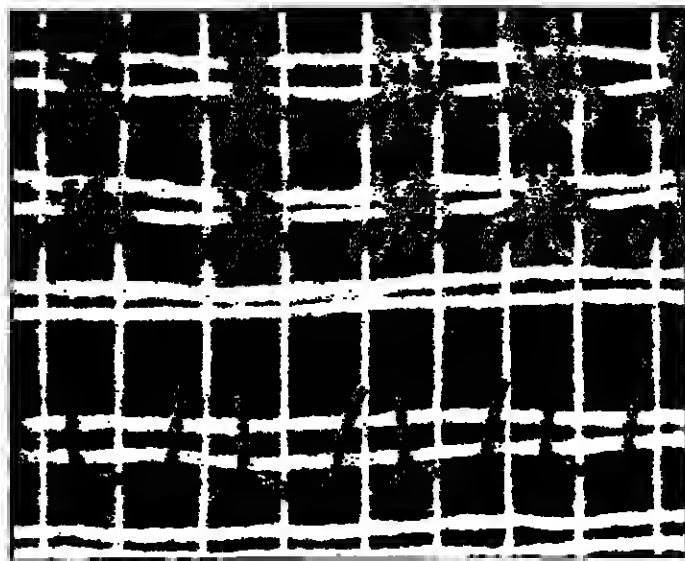
Value

A beautiful high-quality handmade carpet increases in value as it is used; for the carpet's knots tighten in use, making it more brilliant and treasured.

Private collectors, distinguished families, and museums are proud owners of antique carpets. The richest collections

A tradition developed and perfected over 2000 years

Turkish carpets: in a class of their own



The Turkish knot (above) and the Persian knot (Sehna).

of antique knotted handmade carpets are to be found at the Istanbul Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts, the Vakif Carpet Museum in the Blue Mosque, and the Konya Mevlana Museum. The museums and collectors of Europe and the USA own some exquisite pieces, most of which have been exported from Turkey. During the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries, handmade Turkish carpets were prized possessions of the noble and wealthy families of Europe. Carpets of this era, which have survived, have taken their places in museums.

For the last century or more, handmade knotted carpets have been a subject of research for experts and art historians. Great numbers of books and journals have appeared on the subject, showing that the making of handmade carpets is an important art form. The spread of knowledge through such publications has caused an increased demand for fine carpets.

Authorities conclude that the making of knotted carpets, produced in an area extending from the Mediterranean coast of Turkey to the steppes of Central Asia, was introduced by Turkish nomadic tribes and craftsmen. Traditional Turkish carpet making with its distinctive techniques, materials, patterns, and knotting has had a great influence upon all Oriental carpets. In art history books, one comes across carpets that date back to the ancient Persians, the Pharaohs, and the Caliphs. However, these were rugs woven using the simple "towel technique" instead of knotting.

The hard-wearing double-knotted carpets are the invention of Turkish tribes. The techniques found in handmade carpets were brought to the

Mediterranean coast by the Seljuks in the 12th century. Marco Polo mentions rich exhibits of carpets in palaces and mosques. Carpet making has developed at different speeds in different periods according to demand, but high-quality handmade carpets have always found a ready market.

Material and technique

Carpets are textile products; Turkish handmade carpets have always had patterns which fitted the specific nature of the materials and the knotting used. Another special characteristic of Turkish handmade carpets is the use of the double knot, known as the Turkish or Gordes knot. Although designs and patterns change and develop, the Turkish carpet always retains its historical and traditional features.

The first step in carpet making

is to have a pattern or a design. Master weavers do not need a pattern outline, but retain the pattern in their memories. The second step involves the choice of material. Materials used differ according to type and region. The material of a carpet may be wool, pure silk, floss silk, or cotton. The pure silk of Turkish carpets is produced from the cocoons grown in Bursa, one of the few silk centres of the world. Silk carpets are ideal ornaments, and may be used as tapestry, wall hangings and for other decorative purposes.

The material most commonly used is sheep's wool. The Anatolian plateaus are excellent grazing land for sheep and good grazing land determines the sheen and strength of the wool.

Cotton is used in the weaving of a base (warp and weft) for the carpet and wool is then knotted on to this to form a pile. Carpets made with cotton and wool are as hard wearing, beautiful, and attractive as other carpets.

In carpets manufactured only in the Kayseri region, floss silk, which is a kind of artificial vegetal silk, is used. Floss silk makes up the pile knots of the carpet's cotton base system. It is as strong as other materials and is also easily dyed, making possible the production of a wide range of colours.

Knotted carpets are woven on a loom consisting of horizontal bars on which the warp and weft threads are stretched. Unto these threads the pile knots are tied according to a pattern. The thread ends which make up the pile are clipped off

so as to get a velvet-like soft surface. Thus the motifs are made up of thousands of individual knots. The tighter the knots, the finer and stronger is the carpet. The pleasure one gets from a beautiful carpet equals the pleasure one gets from a beautiful picture.

The double knot, known as the Turkish or Gordes knot, is used in all typical Turkish carpets. Another well-known system is the Sehna or Persian knot. The Turkish knot is wrapped around two warps and the Persian knot around a single warp. A kilim, which is similar to a carpet, is woven on the loom but with a different technique; knots are not used and it is woven normally.

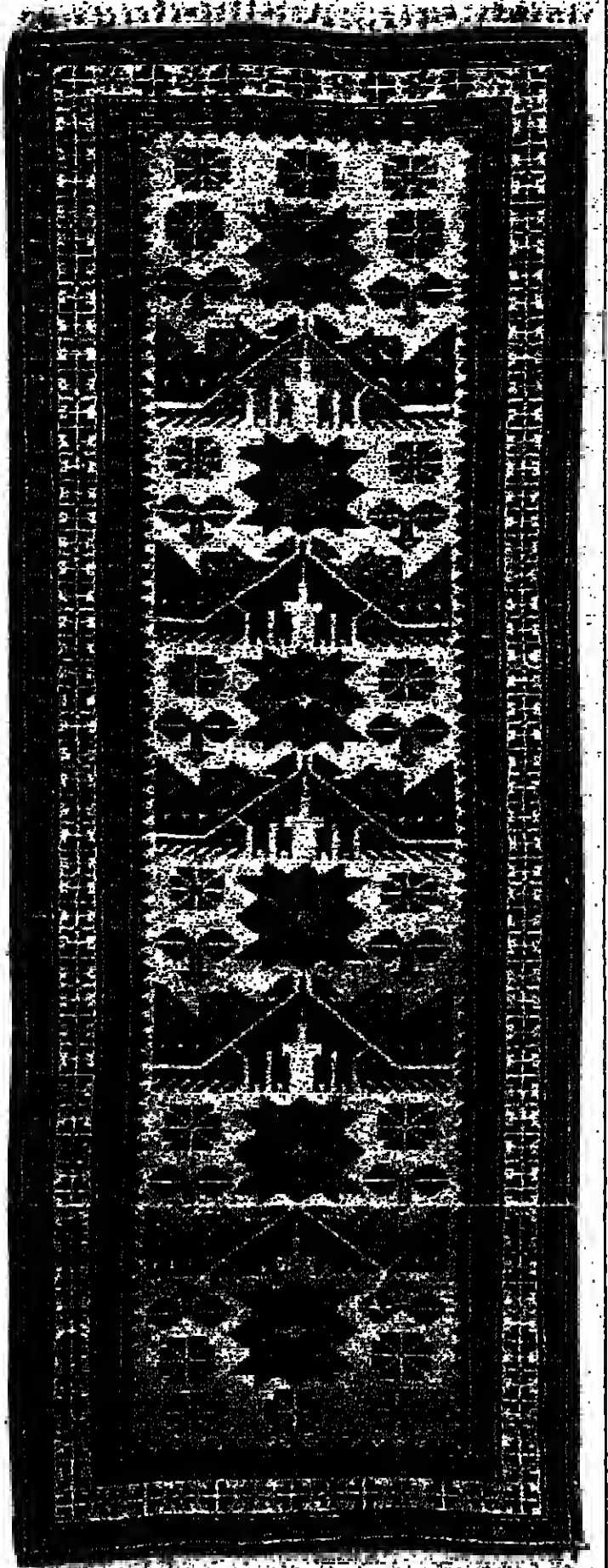
The Gordes knot makes a carpet stronger, firmer and more durable, while the Sehna knot allows the weaving of varied patterns. However, once a carpet is made it is difficult to determine the knotting system.

The colours also are characteristic of the region where the carpet is made. The threads used in the weaving of antique carpets were used to be dyed with natural dyes known only by the family that manufactured the carpet. Today chemical dyes are used along with vegetal dyes. Natural dyes are produced from leaves, roots, and fruits. Many of the villages engaged in carpet making have a grazing land called "Boyalik". Plants from which dyes are produced are grown there. The various formulae for dye production have been passed down from generation to generation. Thus the colours traditional to Turkish carpet making have survived till our day. Red is dominant in Turkish carpets. This striking colour expresses wealth, joy and happiness. Green symbolises heaven; blue nobility and grandeur; yellow is believed to keep evil away, and black symbolises purification from worries.

Handmade carpets are generally called after the region or town where they are manufactured. Contemporary carpets are made in various sizes and with combinations of various materials. In some regions, the threads used in weaving and the knots may be only wool, and in some other regions, the base may be cotton and the knots wool. In other regions pure silk is used in the weaving of carpets.

Dimensions and nomenclature

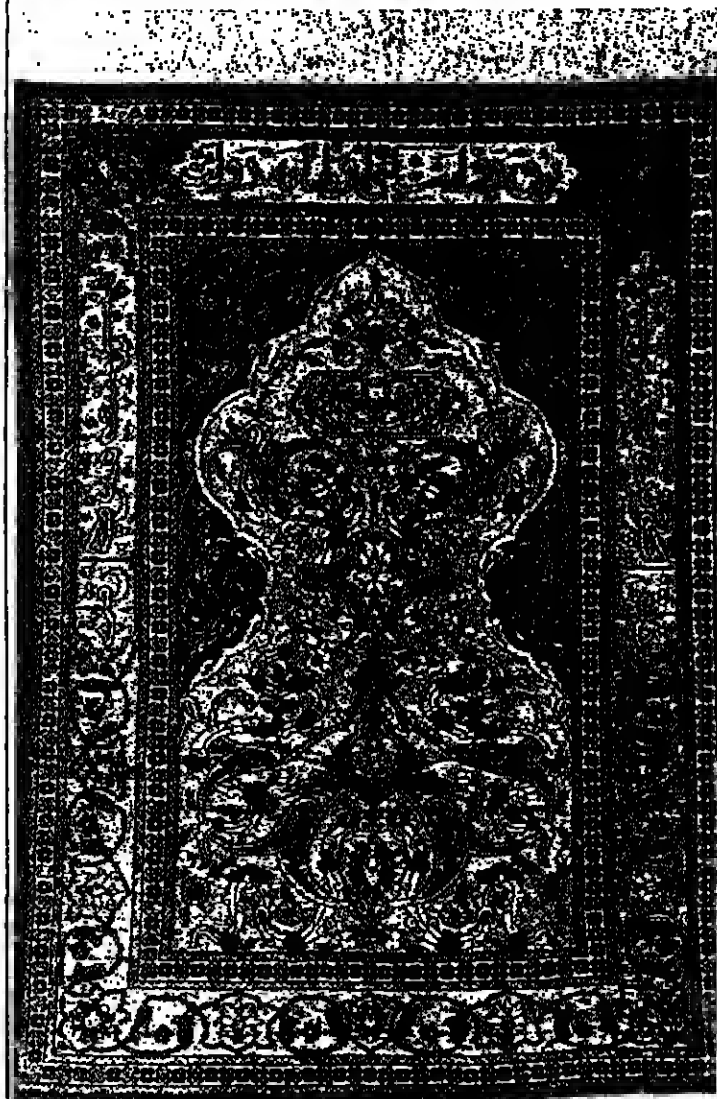
Handmade carpets that can be used as rugs, wall hangings, and divan covers are manufactured in various sizes. Different names are given to carpets



A Yaglibedir pure wool runner.

of different sizes. Although the names given according to size are the same for all regions, the carpets, because they are handmade, may show minor differences of dimension. While some regions manufacture carpets of all sizes, others manufacture carpets in standard sizes. Whatever the size is, a handmade carpet brings beauty and elegance to the place where it is used. Two or three handmade carpets laid over

wall to wall carpeting will add colour to the rooms. Standard dimensions in centimetres:
Small yastik (pillow) 40x25
Yastik 100x60
Ceyrek 135x90
Secade (prayer rug) 180x120-200x130
Karyola 220x150
Kelle 300x200
Taban over 6 sq. metres
Yolluk (runners) different sizes



The Rolls Royce of carpets: natural silk Hereke



Precious handmade carpets are the products of long months of labour requiring great skill and patience.

A unique experiment with handicapped children

By Catherine Foster

LEXINGTON, Mass. The video being shown to visitors to the Boston Higashi School shows a three-year-old Japanese girl labelled autistic who cries inconsolably and kicks and screams when the teacher tries to get her to put on her shoes. Nine years later, however, the same girl, Urara, is playing the xylophone in the Boston Higashi band, greeting visitors with poise, and happily confiding that she wants to write children's books when she grows up.

What's behind Urara's transformation is an educational philosophy that refuses to accept limitations for autistic children. It was developed by a Japanese woman 22 years ago.

The woman, Kiyo Kithara, found soon after starting a kindergarten in Tokyo in 1964 that one of the children was considered autistic. Knowing little about the problem, she taught him as she did the others and took him home with her for further care. "I learned everything about autism from him."

When other mothers asked if she would take their autistic children, she agreed, since there were no other schools. Her kindergarten, the Musashino Higashi Gakuen (school), expanded to include all grades through high school. Since its founding, the school has taught 4,800 autistic students. It has been hailed as having a progressive approach to coping with this problem.

In medical terms, autism is a developmental disorder. Chil-

dren diagnosed as autistic (3 out of 4 are boys) are seen as anxious, hyperactive, unable to speak, and out of touch with reality. Eighty per cent are considered mentally retarded. Drugs are sometimes used to control hyperactivity; occasionally helmets and gloves are worn to protect the children from their own flailing fists. Behaviour modification that uses positive reinforcement - and sometimes the more controversial aversive therapy - is a main form of treatment. Autism is believed to be a permanent handicap.

Dr Kithara operates from an entirely different premise. "In every child ... there exists the most precious sprout of self-identity. To discover this sprout and develop it with full affection, that is the spirit of

education for autistic children," she says. Employing neither psycho-therapy nor drugs, her Daily Life Therapy includes lots of physical activity (dancing, marching, to Japanese martial music, running). The exercise helps the children sleep better at night, she says, so they can concentrate the next day on learning their tasks. They also learn to play with instruments to help with physical dexterity and vocalisation. Music and physical exercises are normal fare in Japanese elementary education.

Some United States students attended the school's international branch. Kithara decided to move it to the US at the request of a group of American parents. The Boston Higashi School, which opened last month, has 93 pupils, 60 of them American.

Arthur Golden, whose son attended Musashino Higashi Gakuen, is one of the founders of the Boston Trust for Autism, a group devoted to helping parents of autistic children. He says he thought Kithara's approach was one of the few that held out hope. "She has much higher expectations. I felt that making the programme available to as many children as possible ... was a matter of saving lives."

A group of interested US doctors and educators helped pave the way in Massachusetts for the Boston Higashi School. They found the recently closed Maria Hastings School to house it and built a dormitory in a nearby town. Tuition, set by the state, is \$16,583 for day students. The rate for residential students has not been set, nor does the school have state approval for the residential programme.

As the tiny, smiling principal shepherds visitors around this

former elementary school, it is clear her confidence in the children's abilities and refusal to accept limitations has yielded remarkable results.

Several children run up and throw their arms around her. They used to cringe when touched, she says. A class of kindergartners sits quietly watching their teacher draw on the blackboard and sing "My Way," in harmony. Public performances are a major part of Kithara's programme. The videotape of the school in Japan shows a massive performance by all members of the school, dressed in dazzling silver outfits. This helps them with self-confidence, says Takako Oe, Kithara's translator.

In Kithara's school, children are taught in groups of 10 with one or two teachers, rather than the conventional one-to-one method of teaching autistic children, which she says encourages dependence. The teachers are on the run constantly, correcting myriad forms of behaviour and keeping the children involved. They're also dedicated: in Japan they often work 60 hours a week.

The Kithara approach is also unconventional in that it mixes autistic and nonautistic students, so that the autistic children will learn to imitate normal actions.

"It stabilises their emotions to give them stimulation from

other children," says the founder. To provide role models, she has brought over 33 of her most functional Japanese autistic students. These older students, in addition to taking classes, act as house parents in the dormitory and do maintenance around the school.

The approach is not universally hailed. Some researchers privately wonder if Kithara is getting such good results because she is screening out physically handicapped children.

"I value it for what it has to offer but don't think it would work for everybody," says Amy Lettich, founder of Belhaven, a school for autistic children in New Haven, Conn.

Dr Fred Volkmar, assistant professor at the Child Study Centre at Yale University, says, "The fundamental problem is, to really know if a treatment works you have to evaluate it scientifically. I also question its being so cast within the Japanese culture. That's not to say that some things wouldn't be helpful."

Dr Bernard Rimland, founder of the Autism Society of America and director of the Institute for Child Behaviour Research, went to Musashino Higashi Gakuen with three other researchers. "We went with a great deal of skepticism and came away feeling like she had a good programme. We had suspected the kids weren't really autistic, but found some very severe cases and did see kids who had been severely affected, functioning at much higher levels than we had anticipated."

One seven-year-old Ohio girl, Miriam Kuzeci, would not eat when she went to the school in Japan. "At one point it didn't look like she'd make it," said her mother, Paula



Kiyo Kithara with pupils at the Higashi school. She believes every child has the potential to develop and grow.

Kuzeci, in a phone interview. "I think the school saved her life. She couldn't stand to be touched; now she loves affection. And she plays with her brother and sisters, which she never did before."

Toshiko Lyons, a mother of one of the older students, came over from Japan to help out at the school answering phones. Her son was 19 when she heard of Musashino Higashi Gakuen. At first Kithara did not want to take him because of his age, she says. But after several requests, the boy was accepted.

Drastic

"There was a drastic change in his behaviour," says Mrs Lyons. "Before no one could control him. He turned right around as soon as he got to the school (in Japan) and now they're training him to be a leader."

The staff is alert to signs of musical and artistic talent, which researchers often find in autistic children. Miss Oe

points out 14-year-old Koshi Kawakami, sitting at a piano in the middle of the gymnasium floor. He was not able to speak when he came to the school, she says. But the staff noticed he was always tapping his fingers. So they taught him piano. Now he plays a difficult selection by Mendelssohn for visitors. Later he introduces himself and talks briefly.

While Kithara says younger children make the most progress, she does not put limits on what any child is capable of doing. Referring to the first autistic child she had in her school, she says, "When I looked at the child's eyes, they were very clean, pure-looking eyes. I thought the boy had many abilities and talents in him that wanted expression. Because I believed that, that led to success for the programme." That student is now learning pottery in the vocational wing of the school.

The Christian Science Monitor.



Pupils at the Higashi school wear helmets for roller-skating class.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Free trade pact will help coordinate investment strategy

OTTAWA, Jan 19. (Kuna): Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has accepted the challenge of his adversaries by vowing to make the next Canadian election a test of the acceptability of the historic free trade pact signed this month by Canada and the United States.

Announcing his resolve to test the pact at the polls, Mulroney said on Tuesday, "We're going to run on it and we're going to ask the Canadian people to endorse what we believe will be a new era of prosperity and fairness and equality of opportunity for our regions." The free trade deal was signed on Jan 1 by Mulroney and President Reagan.

Over the next 10 years, it will not only banish tariffs on most products but also coordinate investment policies, oil distribution and the financial lives of the two countries.

Supporters see a future of cheaper consumer products for Canadians while detractors see a massive loss of jobs with major industries fleeing south to the United States. Critics also warn of an irrevocable loss of Canadian control over its own affairs which would be akin to annexation by the United States.

Mulroney derided opposition critic John Turner for criticising the trade pact without coming up with a viable alternative for a future in which the United States will be more protectionist. "You've got to tell people what you are against, but what you are for," said Mulroney.

The worried liberal opposition decided on Tuesday to send its star member of parliament, Lloyd Axworthy to lobby Congressmen in Washington so they will turn down the deal. Both Congress and the Canadian parliament will have to ratify the pact before it becomes law.

In Canada, the polls show Canadians are evenly divided over the present pact, but they also show that most Canadians clearly support the concept of a free trade deal in principle, although they distrust Mulroney's version of the pact. Over the next few months, Canada's entire political life will revolve around the central question of the deal's impact on this country.

Workers strike in new blow to economy

STOCKHOLM, Jan 19. (Reuters): Some 50,000 white collar workers demanding wage rises above Sweden's five per cent inflation rate went on strike today, severely disrupting industrial production and ignoring government pleas for moderation.

The strike by members of the SIF private sector white collar union was designed to hit most of the country's major industrial companies — including car-maker AB Volvo, heavy engineering concern Asea AB, auto and aircraft maker Saab-Scania AB and appliance manufacturer AB Electrolux.

It is obviously the first major strike in the current wage round and as such it is a serious opening shot," said Mary Foster, a Sweden specialist with Lodon brokers ARK Securities.

Union officials said their strike call was fully supported by the membership, as is generally the case with Sweden's highly organised labour movement.

Company officials said the effect of the strike would be almost immediate. Volvo said its production line would be hit within hours and no attempt would be made to maintain operations partially.

Traders on the Stockholm bourse largely ignored the stoppage, pushing prices up sharply in early trading in reaction to Friday's better-than-expected US trade figures.

The strike came a week after the Social Democratic government presented an annual budget warning of serious balance of payments problems if wages rose by more than inflation.

It was the latest sign of a general deterioration in Swedish industrial relations, once seen as a model of stability and moderation. According to the government, average wage rises of seven per cent would lead to Sweden's current account balance of payments deficit more than 20 billion crowns (\$3.5 billion).

Despite five years of economic expansion

Debt crisis has worsened, says World Bank

WASHINGTON, Jan 19. (Reuters): The global debt crisis has intensified during the past year despite five years of economic expansion in the wealthy countries that should have reduced financial pressures, the World Bank said today. In one of its gloomiest assessments since the debt crisis began in 1982, the bank said conditions could worsen in the period ahead because of growing economic problems in the industrial countries.

The observations were contained in the bank's annual debt analysis for developing countries, which showed that total debt had continued to pile up last year.

The "debt problem has not begun to near a solution. By many measures, it has worsened," the bank's international economics director Jeao Baneth told reporters at a briefing.

The World Bank estimated total developing country external debt at \$1.19 trillion at the end of last year, up 6.25 per cent from 1.12 trillion in 1986. It projected that it would rise to \$1.25 trillion this year, mostly because of the decline in the dollar against other currencies.

It said that while the outlook for new help for sub-Saharan

Africa had improved, the middle-income debtor countries of Latin America continue to face a dismal future.

"The outlook on their debt positions remains very bleak, amid signs of growing frustration and fatigue at the lack of progress from debtors and creditors alike," the bank said.

The lending agency continued to defend the debt plan unveiled over two years ago by US Treasury Secretary James Baker, and said that the crisis must be treated on a country-by-country basis, the backbone of debt strategy up to now.

However, the bank made it clear that new measures are urgently needed to deal with the deteriorating situation in many countries. It said that without new help, the democracies of Latin America could face political upheaval and that cooperation between debtor and creditor countries could collapse.

Crises "The debt crisis threatens the survival of several new and fragile democracies, and more broadly of regimes that eschew confrontation in favour of cooperation," Baneth said.

The report said that while the bank did not foresee a recession at a global level in 1988, economic activity will be less robust than last year. "In any case, global economic activity is certainly going to slow down this year and is very likely to slow down again in 1989," Baneth said.

In the past, it had been expected that continued economic expansion would help poorer states to cope with their debt problems by providing markets for their goods in the wealthy industrial countries, particularly the United States.

Treasury Secretary Baker, in his debt initiative, had proposed that commercial banks and the development banks, including the World Bank, increase funding to allow the debtor states time to grow out of their problems. But despite five years of growth in the wealthy countries, debtors have shown little measurable progress of the kind Baker envisioned.

Innovations Baneth described the recent decision by the US Treasury to sell Mexico non-interest-bearing bonds to back new securities that the country will exchange for discounted commercial bank debt as innovative and significant.

But it was not a historic measure that would profoundly change the shape of the debt crisis, Baneth told reporters. "I don't think that when one looks back at the debt picture 10

years hence, we shall look at it as before and after the Mexican plan," he said.

For this reason, he said that other innovations for dealing with the crisis were still badly needed.

It is urgent to devise further additions to the menu, capable of reducing the resource flows indebted countries must channel to their creditors, so as to allow them to boost their imports, investments and consumption levels," Baneth said.

Looking at the numbers, the bank reported that new loans minus principal repayments totalled \$26 billion in 1987, but debt service exceeded new loans by \$29 billion, a slight improvement over 1986.

The following World Bank table outlines the debt burden carried by eight major debtor countries. The first column shows total debt outstanding in 1987. Column two is the bank's estimate of interest and principal on the debt between 1987 and 1989. The third column shows the percentage of export revenues that was devoted to interest payments in 1987.

| Country | Debt outstanding (billion of dollars) | Debt service (billion of dollars) | Debt ratio Pct of exports |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Argentina | 48.4 | 23.7 | 33.1 |
| Brazil | 114.5 | 61.4 | 30.2 |
| Chile | 20.5 | 9.8 | 29.5 |
| Mexico | 105.0 | 44.8 | 22.7 |
| Nigeria | 27.0 | 12.2 | 11.6 |
| Philippines | 29.0 | 12.0 | 18.0 |
| Venezuela | 33.9 | 15.8 | 22.5 |
| Yugoslavia | 21.8 | 10.2 | 7.7 |

Tokyo boosts foreign aid

Japan's trade surplus declines

TOKYO, Jan 19. (AP): Japan's global trade surplus fell nearly \$3 billion last year, from \$82.7 billion to \$79.8 billion, the Finance Ministry announced yesterday.

William Sterling, a senior economist with Merrill Lynch Securities Co. in Tokyo, said the \$2.9 billion decline represents a dramatic shift in Japan's trade, and shows that Japan is carrying out its promise to reduce its dependence on exports and expand imports.

The ministry said the trade surplus fell slightly in December from the same month in 1986, although the surplus with the United States increased by \$169 million.

It was the eighth consecutive monthly decline.

Significant "This means there has been significant progress in restructuring Japan's economy," Sterling said.

Sterling said the rise to Japan's surplus with the United States in December was primarily due to a steep increase in the value of the

yen, from 160 yen to the dollar a year ago to around 120 yen toward the end of last year. He also blamed the increase on seasonal increases for the US holidays.

"When you analyse the figures, however, there is actually an improvement in trade with the United States as well," Sterling said.

Exports

In December, Japan's global exports rose 18.6 per cent from a year earlier to \$23.3 billion, while imports rose 34.6 per cent to \$14.7 billion.

That left an unadjusted trade surplus of \$8.6 billion in December, down from \$27 billion a year earlier. Japan's trade surplus with the United States was \$4.9 billion last month, up from \$4.7 billion the previous year. That compared with \$4.2 billion in November.

The ministry did not immediately announce Japan's trade surplus with the United States for all of 1987. The total of unadjusted monthly figures for

the year is \$52.06 billion. In 1986, the monthly figures added up to a Japanese surplus of \$51.37 billion.

The United States announced a deficit of \$58.6 billion to its trade with Japan in 1986, but the two countries calculate their figures differently. The United States includes freight and insurance costs in both imports and exports, while Japan includes them only in imports.

Meanwhile, the Japanese foreign aid is increasing every year, but other nations continue to voice dissatisfaction, saying it falls below Japan's rising position to the world, analysts said.

Last month, the Japanese government announced its aid to Third World countries will total \$5.3 billion in fiscal 1988, up 5.6 per cent from fiscal 1987. Last year, it was \$5.6 billion, up 50 per cent from the year before due mainly to the sharp appreciation of the yen against the dollar.

It was earlier announced that Tokyo aims at achieving \$40 billion target in five years instead

of seven as was originally planned, but that ratio of grant to aid was only 47 per cent for Japan, compared to 90 per cent for the US, 98 per cent for Britain and 78 per cent for France.

Recently, a Foreign Ministry source told reporters that the government is budgeting about \$10 billion for aid to the Third World in 1988 fiscal year beginning on April 1, saying Japan surpassed the US to become the world's largest donor of official aid.

There is mounting demand from abroad, however, for Japan to improve and increase its economic assistance to a way which will be commensurate with this country's rising stature worldwide, it was noted.

Responding to such calls, the Tokyo government has formulated a five-year foreign aid programme from 1987 until 1992. Discussions are presently being conducted between various ministries concerned to determine the details of the programme before the new fiscal year begins.

Toyota and Nissan exports drop

TOKYO, Jan 19. (Reuters): Japan's two biggest car makers today announced a slump in last year's export figures with most of the drop in the United States, where the stronger yen has forced them to raise prices.

Toyota's exports fell more than five per cent in 1987, to 1.77 million vehicles, while those of Nissan dropped more than 10 per cent, to 1.17 million, the companies announced to separate statements.

The drop in exports mainly occurred to the United States, where the strong yen forced Japanese automakers to raise prices and lose sales. Both companies were able to increase shipments to Europe slightly.

Competitiveness "The strong yen reduced our competitiveness in the United States because we had to increase prices," a Toyota spokesman said in a telephone interview.

The company raised suggested retail prices of its 1988 models in the US by an average of 1.4 per cent, or \$163, from January 15.

Although the yen has risen sharply against the dollar since mid-1985, it has remained more or less steady against European currencies, enabling Japanese car makers to retain their competitive edge in the European market.

Toyota's exports to the United States fell more than 12 per cent last year to 906,739 vehicles, but those to Europe rose about one-and-a-half per cent, to 412,913.

Nissan's exports to the United States dropped nearly 19 per cent to 547,779 vehicles last year, while shipments to Europe rose three per cent to 401,177.

Oil income

DOHA, Jan 19. (Opecna): Officials in North Yemen estimate annual oil export revenues to average between \$700 to \$800 million at the current volume of 200,000 bpd and a price of \$18 a barrel.

An article published in a local magazine said the officials put the country's proven reserves between 500 and 700 million barrels.

About 50 foreign oil companies are reported to be interested in purchasing North Yemeni oil on a quarterly basis.

World Business Summary

Oil prices may steady despite Opec discounts

TOKYO, Jan 19. (Reuters): Opec member countries are engaged in a vicious price-cutting war, but a free-fall in oil prices may be avoided because they are basically sticking to agreed production limits, oil industry sources said today. The sources said that despite under-the-counter discounts being offered by Opec countries, there was a growing feeling the organisation would stick to the official price of \$18 a barrel in the second quarter of this year. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) set itself a production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day (bpd) for the first half of 1988, excluding Iraq which produced 2.6 million bpd in December.

A Reuters survey estimated Opec production in the first half of January fell to around 17 million bpd from the December level of around 18.3 million. "If Opec can contain production at the current level until the end of February, then I think they can start thinking about moving back to official prices," said one oil analyst. Opec members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar are selling crude to Japan at prices linked to the free market, where oil is selling at about \$2 below official Opec prices. Saudi Arabia, the largest and most powerful member of the 13-country oil group, has refused to cut its oil price to Japan though it is reported to be selling at market-linked prices to oil companies in the United States. Abu Dhabi, another big Opec producer, has told foreign companies producing oil in the country they must pay official prices but will give Japanese customers small retroactive discounts on December and January shipments, the sources said. "One thing is consistent — the short fuse on which they are offering discount prices," said a trader for a major oil company. "Opec appears so far to have agreed to sell its oil at a cheaper price as far ahead as March. I can only assume they're all a bit afraid of each other and what will happen if one agrees to cut prices for several months ahead," the analyst said. Oil prices plunged below \$10 in 1986 after Opec countries agreed to sell at market-linked prices for six-month periods.

Prison terms urged for two Toshiba Machine executives

TOKYO, Jan 19. (AP): The prosecution today urged one-year prison terms for two former executives of Toshiba Machine Co. charged with illegally selling high-technology milling machines to the Soviet Union. Ryuzo Hayashi, 53, a manager in Toshiba Machine's material supply division, and Hiroaki Taniguchi, 51, deputy senior project manager of the company's first engineering department, have been on trial since Sept 10 on charges of violating foreign exchange and foreign trade laws. The laws ban sensitive exports to communist nations in line with rules of the coordinating committee for exports to communist nations. A convicted violator can be sentenced to up to three years in prison and three million yen (\$23,000) in fines. Toshiba Machine, a subsidiary of Toshiba Corp., Japan's second largest electronics maker, is accused of selling \$17 million worth of sophisticated machines to the Soviets, some of them through Norway's state-owned Kongsberg Vapenfabrikk, between 1982 and 1984. US officials have said the machines permitted Moscow to turn out propellers that would make submarines quieter and harder to detect. The prosecution today also demanded a fine of two million yen (\$15,380) for Toshiba Machine.

The Tokyo district court set the next trial session for Feb 23 for the defence to make its arguments. The court's three-judge panel is to announce its ruling a few months later.

Overseas investment soars

SEOUL, Jan 19. (AP): South Korean firms' new equity investment in overseas business projects in 1987 soared to \$397 million, up 130 per cent from 1986, the Finance Ministry reported today. Ministry officials said South Korean capital investment abroad, including investment in earlier years, totalled \$966 million for 534 projects at the end of 1987. Besides Korea's growing current account surplus, the officials said the sharp rise resulted from several big projects as well as a rise of investment, notably the United States, designed to circumvent trade protectionism. Of the 1987 investment, the biggest portion, \$177 million, went to the United States, an increase of 123.7 per cent from the previous year. Southeast Asia was second with \$131 million and the Middle East was third with \$71 million. No year earlier figures were given for the two regions.

By industry, \$202 million went into mining, \$157 million into manufacturing and \$20 million into trading businesses, the officials said.

S. Arabia suspends tariff increases

RIYADH, Jan 19. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia, in its second major climb-down from a new austerity programme, said yesterday it had suspended increases in tariffs and the price of government services. A statement issued after the weekly cabinet meeting said new import tariffs on medical equipment would be lifted and newspapers, magazines and medicines would be exempt from tariffs altogether. It also said increases in the cost of government services, including electricity, water, airport and medical services, were being reconsidered, while fares on the national airline Saudia would return to previous levels. On January 5, King Fahd personally revoked a plan to tax foreigners after a huge and unprecedented display of anger among the country's four million expatriate workers.

Yesterday's statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, said: "In King Fahd's desire to provide adequate time to study these matters thoroughly before issuing (the increases) if needed, the King ordered formation of a higher committee for this purpose." Saudi Arabia, hit by declining oil revenues, has had to draw heavily on foreign reserves built up during the early 1980s to finance a series of budget deficits.

Its 1988 budget, announced on December 30, introduced a series of measures aimed at cutting costs and increasing revenues. Import duties of 12 per cent were levied across the board, with only certain foodstuffs exempt, while a 20 per cent charge was imposed on imports competing with locally-produced goods. Details of the increased cost of government services were never officially announced, although the budget statement said they would be raised "within reasonable limits."

Company needs a more 'active and aggressive management'

Benedetti seen wanting to shake up Generale management

BRUSSELS, Jan 19. (Reuters): An Italian tycoon is likely to win a battle for control of Societe Generale, a company which owns a huge chunk of Belgium's economy, and he seems intent on shaking it up rather than breaking it up, analysts say. But they predict Olivetti chairman Carlo de Benedetti faces a fight to sweep away the cobwebs from a venerable institution which has stakes in 1,200 firms around the world and impose his more dynamic style of management.

Active

"Obviously what the company needs is a more active and aggressive management and one that is more profit-oriented," said Patrick Vermeulen, shares analyst with brokers Dewaay-Sebille, Servais Et Cie.

"If De Benedetti show he's not here to strip assets but to put the holding back into shape, I think it's possible he'll have support from quite a lot of shareholders," he added.

Societe Generale, a pillar of the establishment, said yesterday it would raise its capital by 57 per cent and place the 16 million new shares in friendly hands to thwart a hostile bid for control by De Benedetti.

The 53-year-old Turin entrepreneur, through his French holding company Cerus, announced he already held a stake of 18.6 per cent and was

offering to buy a further 15 per cent, Societe Generale governor Renc Lamy said.

In a statement issued in Paris, De Benedetti said he wanted to create the first European Economic Community-wide financial holding company through closer ties between Societe Generale, Cerus and French financial group Dumenil-Leblanc, in which Cerus has taken a 25 per cent stake.

"La Generale", as Belgians call it, is involved in every major sector of the economy. Its highly diversified portfolio contains strong performers in banking, insurance, electricity production and transport.

But several of its major chemicals, engineering and mining subsidiaries are in financial difficulties and the group's overall earnings power is widely considered weak.

Analysts do not expect De Benedetti to break up the group by selling off the weaker parts.

Defensive

Vermeulen said De Benedetti's strategy would most likely be to cut back operations in some sectors and improve management all round. "De Benedetti is not an asset stripper. He's an industrialist who wants to reshape companies to get them making money again," he said.

Societe Generale's defensive move will dilute De Benedetti's shareholding and analysts



Italian tycoon Carlo de Benedetti (left) is welcomed by Belgian Finance Minister, Mark Eyskens, before their meeting yesterday. De Benedetti told Eyskens he was seeking only a significant minority share in Societe Generale. (Reuters wirephoto)

forecast his stake in the company's enlarged capital would stay at around 18 per cent since shareholders friendly to the board would refuse his offer.

That is a far bigger stake than any other single shareholder owns at present and could effectively give De Benedetti a blocking minority at shareholders' meetings, they said.

De Benedetti would then be able to torpedo any plans by the

board that he did not like — including any attempts to issue more shares and place them, took with friends of the board.

In raising Societe Generale's capital to thwart De Benedetti this time, "the board has played their last card," said one analyst who declined to be named.

There would be nothing to stop De Benedetti building up his stake by buying shares on and outside the bourse, as he has

already done in huge quantities, analysts said.

"If De Benedetti continues buying we'll have a massive battle — and he's not the kind of man to give up when he meets the first hurdle," said Vermeulen of Dewaay-Sebille.

"It's certainly not finished yet," he said of the saga, which began last summer when a mystery buyer started placing large orders on the Brussels bourse.

THE CAMBRIDGE INVESTMENT PLANS

The bear market survival kit

Seminar on Sunday 24th January
Kuwait Sheraton Hotel
8.00 pm

TOPIC "SURVIVING IN A BEAR MARKET"
SPEAKER DAVID YOUNG, Managing Director
of International Tax & Investment Planning

Further details from:

ITIP, 11 Millers Yard, Mill Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1RQ
tel 0223 64444 telex 81286 SGRANN G, ref ITIP

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

| NAME | LAST |
|------------|-------|
| ABBEY LIFE | 247/0 |
| ALD LYONS | 342/0 |
| AMSTRAD | 137.5 |
| ARGYLL GP | 195/0 |
| ASDA HFI | 170/0 |
| A B FOODS | 305/0 |
| BAA PP | 98/0 |
| BTR | 270/0 |
| BAT INDS | 443/0 |
| BARCLAYS | 495/0 |
| BASS | 786/0 |
| BEAZER | 192/0 |
| BEECHAMS | 460/0 |
| BET ORD | 234/0 |
| BICC PLC | 334/0 |
| BLUE ARROW | 98/0 |
| BLUE CIRC | 415/0 |
| BUC GP | 396/0 |
| BOOTS CO | 252/0 |
| BPH INDS | 252/0 |
| BR CORP | 333/0 |
| BR AIRWAY | 165/4 |
| BR AEROSP | 368/0 |
| BR GAS PP | 134/0 |
| B.P. | 250/0 |
| B.P. NEW | 74/0 |
| BR TELCO | 232/0 |
| BRITNOL | 455/0 |
| BUNZL | 163/0 |
| BURNHAM OL | 443/0 |
| BURTON | 230/0 |
| CABLE&WIR | 365/0 |
| CADBURYS | 59/17 |
| COATS VNY | 255/0 |
| COMS UNIT | 345/0 |
| COOKSON | 870/0 |
| COOKSON | 532/0 |
| COURTAULD | 344/0 |
| DALGETY | 300/5 |
| DEE CP | 198/4 |
| DIXONS | 187/0 |
| ENG CHINA | 418/0 |
| ENTER OIL | 253/0 |
| FERRANTI | 89/0 |
| FISONS | 255/0 |
| GEN ALLEC | 830/0 |
| GEN ECCO | 156/0 |
| GLAXO | 922/0 |
| GRANDAD | 300/0 |
| GLOBE | 136/4 |
| GRAND NET | 445/0 |
| GUS A | 080/0 |
| GUARD RYL | 855/0 |
| GKN | 305/0 |
| GUTHNESS | 296/6 |
| HARRISON | 518/0 |
| HANSON | 138/0 |
| HARPER SID | 470/0 |
| HAILEY | 97/0 |
| HILLSDOWN | 286/0 |

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

| NAME | CLOSE | OPEN |
|------------|-------|-------|
| A.B. ELECT | 356/0 | 355/0 |
| APV PLC | 124/0 | 123/0 |
| AARONSON | 115/0 | 116/0 |
| AAH HDLG | 307/0 | 309/0 |
| ACATOS+HT | 463/0 | 463/0 |
| ADDISON G | 95/0 | 95/0 |
| ADVEST GP | 290/0 | 290/0 |
| AILSA | 147/0 | 145/0 |
| ALEX MKW | 172/0 | 170/0 |
| ALLIANCE | 770/0 | 765/0 |
| ALDO COLL | 129/0 | 128/0 |
| ALLO PLAN | 50/0 | 50/0 |
| AMARI PLC | 151/0 | 151/0 |
| AMEC PLC | 343/0 | 341/0 |
| AMER TRUS | 113/0 | 112/0 |
| AMERSHAM | 465/0 | 465/0 |
| ANGLIA TV | 394/0 | 395/0 |
| AUSBACHER | 69/0 | 68/0 |
| U-APP HOL | 353/0 | 355/0 |
| APP EYARD | 343/0 | 343/0 |
| APRICOT | 102/0 | 103/0 |
| ARMSTRONG | 154/0 | 153/0 |
| ANGLO O'S | 379/0 | 378/0 |
| AQUACUTUM | 260/0 | 260/0 |
| ASHLEY L | 130/0 | 130/0 |
| AUTO SEC | 236/0 | 236/0 |
| AVIS EUR | 287/0 | 287/0 |
| AVON RUBB | 640/0 | 640/0 |
| BBA GP | 145/0 | 146/0 |
| BSS INTL | 66/0 | 66/0 |
| BAILL JAP | 409/0 | 408/0 |
| BK OF SCO | 550/0 | 549/0 |
| BARKER DO | 138/0 | 138/0 |
| BARRET DEV | 178/0 | 178/0 |
| BELMILL | 149/0 | 150/0 |
| BEJAN GP | 189/0 | 186/0 |
| BELHAY | 47/0 | 47/0 |
| BELLWAY | 211/0 | 211/0 |
| BENROSE | 211/0 | 211/0 |
| BENLON HD | 33/0 | 33/0 |
| U-BENNETT | 43/0 | 43/0 |
| BENTALLS | 161/0 | 160/0 |
| BERSFORD | 320/0 | 317/0 |
| BERKELEY | 273/0 | 272/0 |
| BLCK LE 2 | 20/0 | 20/4 |
| BOASE HAS | 267/0 | 267/0 |
| BODDINGTO | 146/0 | 146/0 |
| BOOKER PL | 400/0 | 398/0 |
| BORTHWICK | 59/0 | 59/0 |
| BONATER | 375/0 | 375/0 |
| BONTHORPE | 164/0 | 162/0 |
| BRAMMER | 234/0 | 231/0 |
| BRENT CHS | 138/0 | 138/0 |
| BRENT MKR | 315/0 | 315/0 |
| BRIDON | 196/0 | 195/0 |
| BRITANNIC | 53/0 | 55/0 |
| BR ASSETS | 65/4 | 65/0 |
| BR LITCO | 265/0 | 263/0 |
| BR LITA | 444/0 | 443/0 |
| WILBYRD IH | 276/0 | 276/0 |
| WILLIS FB | 237/0 | 237/0 |
| WOLWORTH | 248/4 | 248/4 |

World Indices

| INDEX | LATEST | 1/PREV-DAYS/2 | PREV-QR | PREV-YR |
|------------|--------|---------------|---------|---------|
| FT 300 ORD | 1423.0 | 1440.1 | 1398.7 | 1373.3 |
| FT 500 SHR | 0 | 1004.6 | 1001.2 | 957.6 |
| FT ALL SHR | 0 | 912.60 | 909.36 | 870.22 |
| FT GOV-SEC | 0 | 88.45 | 87.96 | 88.49 |
| FT GOV MW | 0 | 283.4 | 294.5 | 302.1 |
| FT MINES F | 0 | 455.11 | 453.40 | 450.65 |
| FT OIL | 0 | 1743.1 | 1739.1 | 1663.6 |
| FT WLD DLR | 114.72 | 113.55 | 93.00 | 115.04 |
| FT WLD STG | 95.85 | 94.76 | 93.00 | 90.79 |
| FT WLD LOC | 102.81 | 101.82 | 100.64 | 99.08 |

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS LOWER ON JAPANESE TRADE DATA
LONDON, JAN 19 - NEWS THAT JAPAN'S TRADE SURPLUS WITH THE U.S. WIDENED DURING DECEMBER CAST A SHADOW OVER SHARES HERE, DEPRESSING PRICES THROUGHOUT TODAY'S SESSION, DEALERS SAID.

A WIDELY ANTICIPATED SELL-OFF ON WALL STREET AT ITS 1430 GMT OPENING TODAY HELPED PUSH THE FTSE 100 SHARE INDEX TO TODAY'S LOW OF 1,757.6 BY 1444 GMT. BY 1518 GMT, THE INDEX HAD ONLY JUST STRUGGLED ABOVE THAT LOW TO TRADE 30.7 POINTS DOWN AT 1,759.3.

THE JAPANESE TRADE SURPLUS NEWS SENT THE DOLLAR LOWER ON THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND CAUSED NERVOUSNESS AMONG THE LEADING DOLLAR EARNERS HERE. ICI GAVE UP 37P TO 1.110, GLAXO FELL 20P TO 1.018 WHILE FISONS FELL 10P TO 257 AND SHELL 23P TO 1.025.

U.K. ECONOMIC DATA FOR NOVEMBER HAD A LESS MARKED EFFECT ON SHARES THAN THE JAPANESE TRADE FIGURES BUT WERE STILL A DEPRESSING FACTOR TODAY, DEALERS SAID.

U.K. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FELL A PROVISIONAL 0.35 PCT IN NOVEMBER 1987 AFTER AN UPWARD REVISED 1.3 PCT GAIN IN OCTOBER, WHILE MANUFACTURING OUTPUT FELL A PROVISIONAL 0.5 PCT IN NOVEMBER AFTER RISING AN UPWARD REVISED 1.4 PCT IN OCTOBER.

SOME DEALERS SAID REVERSALS FROM THE PREVIOUS UPWARD TRENDS COULD BE WORKING IF REFLECTED IN FUTURE ECONOMIC FIGURES. A DECLINE IN DOMESTIC PRODUCTION COULD MEAN U.K. CONSUMERS DEMAND MORE IMPORTS, THUS STOKING UP FRESH INFLATIONARY PRESSURES.

London Gold

LONDON, JAN 19 - GOLD BULLION TRADED QUIETLY TODAY, WITH LITTLE FRESH INVESTOR INTEREST SEEN, ALTHOUGH PRICES ENDED SLIGHTLY FIRMER, DEALERS SAID.

GOLD CLOSED NEAR ITS HIGHS AT 477.00/477.50 DLRS AN OUNCE, IDENTICAL TO THE OPENING, AND COMPARED WITH ITS PREVIOUS 475.50/476.00 CLOSE.

TODAY'S NARROW MOVEMENTS LARGELY REFLECTED THE DOLLAR'S FLUCTUATIONS IN EQUALLY QUIET MONEY MARKETS. BULLION TRADING WAS MOSTLY RESTRICTED TO ROUTINE DEALER ACTIVITY, WITH MANY PARTICIPANTS WAITING FOR FRESH TRENDS TO EMERGE, THEY SAID.

London Money Market

LONDON, JAN 19 - MONEY RATES ENDED LITTLE CHANGED DESPITE U.K. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION DATA WHICH SUGGEST THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO RAISE INTEREST RATES, DEALERS SAID.

THEY NOTED THAT A RISE IN BASE RATES HAS BEEN HINTED AT RECENTLY BY CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER NIGEL LAUSON AND BANK OF ENGLAND GOVERNOR ROBIN LEIGH-Pemberton, WHO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT INFLATIONARY PRESSURES IN A RAPIDLY EXPANDING ECONOMY.

BUT TODAY'S FIGURES SHOWED THAT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FELL 0.35 PCT IN NOVEMBER, WITH MANUFACTURING OUTPUT DOWN 0.5 PCT, INDICATING, LIKE RETAIL SALES DATA YESTERDAY, A SLOWING OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

Foreign Exchange

| DLR | STG | DMK | FFR | OPC |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------|
| DLR 1.7707/17 | 1.7685/95 | 1.6865/78 | 5.6870/00 | NOON |
| STG 1.6790/6870 | 2.976/989 | 2.9805/40 | 10.0545/0670 | NOON |
| DMK 1.667/681 | 10.045/63 | 336.9/337.5 | 29.57/75 | FIX |
| FFR 1.3705/3715 | 2.4272/4303 | 81.38/49 | 24.14/18 | 1500 |
| NFL 1089/5 | 3.34/95 | 112.32 | 33.51 | FIX |
| ECU 1.22523 | 0.6926/4 | 2.06746 | 6.97036 | CLSE |
| SDR | | | | NOON |
| YEN 129.45/55 | 229.20/52 | | | |
| SDR RATES | 15/01/88 | OTHERS | 19/01/1988 | |

NEW YORK

| NAME | OPEN | MID-DAY |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| A BSCH COM | 31/2 | 31/4 |
| ATLANTIC R | 72/3 | 72/3 |
| AAR CORP | 18/6 | 18/4 |
| AETNA LIFE | 46/2 | 46/3 |
| ALASKA AIR | 14/0 | 14/0 |
| ALCAR ALUM | 27/4 | 27/6 |
| ALCO STAND | 21/5 | 21/4 |
| AM CAP SEC | 24/4 | 24/5 |
| AMER CYANA | 46/7 | 47/0 |
| AM FAMILY | 13/3 | 13/5 |
| AM ROM PRO | 73/4 | 73/6 |
| AM STORES | 37/2 | 37/3 |
| AMER T T | 28/5 | 28/6 |
| AMOCO CP | 72/2 | 72/4 |
| AMP INC | 46/2 | 46/1 |
| AMPCO PITT | 0 | 14/1 |
| AMR CORP | 34/0 | 34/3 |
| AMR GEN CO | 31/4 | 31/6 |
| AMRDA HESS | 24/3 | 24/4 |
| ANTHEM ELE | 10/0 | 10/0 |
| APACHE CP | 8/0 | 7/7 |
| APACHE PET | 4/3 | 4/2 |
| ARMCO INC | 11/3 | 11/1 |
| ASARCO INC | 23/2 | 23/1 |
| ASHLAND OIL | 55/0 | 55/0 |
| ATLS CORP | 0 | 34/4 |
| AVERY INT | 20/3 | 20/5 |
| AVNEY INC | 24/2 | 24/3 |
| AVON PRODS | 25/3 | 25/7 |
| BELL ATLAS | 68/6 | 68/3 |
| BCE INC | 28/5 | 28/4 |
| BELL-HOW | 60/4 | 60/4 |
| BETH STEEL | 17/7 | 17/6 |
| BEVERLY | 6/5 | 6/5 |
| BNK BOSTON | 22/4 | 22/4 |
| BNK BOST-A | 50/2 | 50/5 |
| BNK N-YORK | 29/5 | 29/6 |
| BNK TR-NY | 31/5 | 31/4 |
| BANKAMER | 7/6 | 7/6 |
| BANKAM SPEC | 6/6 | 6/6 |
| BOEING | 42/4 | 42/6 |
| BOISE CASC | 39/1 | 39/1 |
| BORDEN | 49/5 | 49/7 |
| BORG-WARNER | 0 | 43/5 |
| BOWATER | 29/0 | 28/6 |
| BR TELECOM | 41/7 | 42/1 |
| BRIGGS-STR | 26/2 | 26/1 |
| BRIST-NYER | 41/4 | 42/2 |
| BRUNSWICK | 17/2 | 17/2 |
| BURNDY CP | 13/4 | 13/4 |
| C 3 INC | 10/6 | 10/6 |
| CADOT CORP | 31/4 | 31/7 |
| CAESARS WD | 19/6 | 19/5 |
| CAROLI FRE | 22/2 | 22/1 |
| CAS NAT GS | 15/0 | 15/0 |
| CAT-COKE | 0 | 18/4 |
| CATERPILLAR | 62/2 | 62/4 |
| CBI IND | 20/3 | 20/4 |
| CENTEL CP | 36/4 | 36/4 |
| CENTRO DAT | 2/2 | 2/2 |
| CHAMP INTL | 32/4 | 33/0 |
| CHAMP SPA | 11/4 | 11/5 |
| CHARTER CO | 3/7 | 3/6 |
| CHASE MANH | 21/6 | 21/6 |
| CHEMED CP | 34/3 | 34/0 |
| CHEMIC NY | 20/3 | 20/3 |
| CHEVRON | 41/4 | 42/0 |
| CHRYSLER | 25/6 | 26/2 |
| CHUBB CORP | 57/6 | 57/7 |
| CHUR FR CH | 6/7 | 6/7 |
| CIGNA CORP | 49/3 | 49/5 |
| CIR CIT ST | 20/3 | 20/1 |
| CIRCLE K | 12/5 | 12/6 |
| CITICORP | 19/5 | 19/4 |
| CLARK EQUI | 26/1 | 26/3 |
| CLOKOR | 1/4 | 1/4 |
| CORP REL | 26/0 | 26/2 |
| CORP PACIFIC | 17/4 | 17/4 |
| COACHMAN | 7/2 | 7/2 |
| COASTAL | 30/2 | 30/3 |
| COCA COLA | 37/7 | 37/9 |
| COLECO | 3/6 | 3/6 |
| COLEMAN CO | 32/7 | 32/7 |
| COLGATE | 41/7 | 42/2 |
| COLT INDS | 10/1 | 10/1 |
| COLINS GAS | 30/1 | 30/2 |
| COM EDIS | 29/2 | 29/2 |
| CONAGRA | 25/5 | 25/2 |
| CONS ED-NY | 42/2 | 42/2 |
| CONTINENTAL | 39/6 | 39/4 |
| CONTL ILLN | *12 | *10 |
| CONTEL CP | 31/3 | 31/2 |
| CONTR DATA | 21/6 | 22/0 |
| COOPER T-R | 29/4 | 29/5 |
| COOPER CORP | 10/5 | 10/5 |
| CORNING GL | 48/5 | 48/7 |
| CRANE | 21/2 | 21/4 |
| CRAY RES | 68/0 | 68/5 |
| CULLINET | 6/5 | 6/5 |
| DANIEL IND | 6/6 | 6/6 |
| DATA GEN | 25/0 | 24/7 |
| DATAPoint | 4/2 | 4/3 |
| DAYTON HUD | 31/6 | 31/7 |
| DIG EQUIP | 120/0 | 121/3 |
| DEERE CO | 36/1 | 36/5 |
| DELTA AIR | 39/0 | 38/4 |
| DIAMOND SH | 8/7 | 8/7 |
| DIEBOLD | 41/5 | 41/3 |
| DISNEY W | 60/1 | 60/7 |
| DOVER CORP | 61/0 | 61/2 |
| DOM CHEM | 82/4 | 82/7 |
| DOM JONES | 29/4 | 29/5 |
| DRESSER | 24/6 | 25/0 |
| DREYFUS | 25/0 | 25/0 |
| DUKE POWER | 44/4 | 44/4 |
| DUN BRAD | 54/2 | 54/2 |
| DUPONT | 81/0 | 81/2 |
| DYNALIFE | 12/4 | 12/3 |
| DYNAMICS | 18/1 | 18/2 |
| E SYSTEMS | 28/2 | 28/4 |
| EASTMAN K | 50/2 | 51/0 |
| EATON CORP | 75/0 | 75/0 |
| EMERY AIR | 7/0 | 6/7 |
| EMHART CP | 20/0 | 20/0 |
| ETRYL CP | 18/4 | 18/6 |
| EXXON | 40/2 | 40/2 |
| FAM DOL ST | 9/4 | 9/5 |
| FED EXPRESS | 39/2 | 40/0 |
| FIELDCREST | 15/7 | 15/5 |
| FIN COR-AM | 1/4 | 1/4 |
| FIRESTONE | 31/4 | 31/7 |
| FMC CORP | 32/5 | 32/5 |
| FORD MOTOR | 42/6 | 43/4 |
| FORD HONOR | 35/0 | 35/2 |
| FOXBORO CO | 25/2 | 25/4 |
| FRCHLD IND | 9/2 | 9/2 |
| FST BANK | 23/2 | 23/2 |
| FST BOSTON | 26/0 | 26/2 |
| FST CHICAG | 20/3 | 20/4 |
| FST CITI BK | 10 | 10 |
| FST HAT BC | 31/0 | 31/0 |
| GA CORP | 43/3 | 43/1 |
| GANNETT CP | 36/0 | 36/1 |
| GALVESTON | 0 | 1/2 |
| GATX CORP | 38/4 | 38/2 |
| GCA CP | 2/6 | 2/6 |
| GEARHART | 1/0 | 1/0 |
| GEN DATA | 4/1 | 4/0 |
| GENL DYNAM | 50/4 | 50/2 |
| GENL ELECT | 45/5 | 46/3 |
| GEN HOST | 9/6 | 9/6 |
| GEN INSTRU | 7/7 | 7/7 |

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

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|-------------|---------|------|------|
| DEUT. HOUSN | 1770 | 1766 | 1770 |
| FEMINER JHC | 158/156 | 156 | 156 |
| FERGUSON | 300/30 | 301 | 301 |
| FIELDS M | 21/21 | 21 | 21 |
| FINES ARTS | 89/9 | 87 | 87 |
| FINLIN GAY | 106/105 | 106 | 105 |
| LEWING J | 178/175 | 175 | 175 |
| ILHAY J | 50/50 | 46 | 46 |
| STANLEY LEI | 49/40 | 40 | 40 |
| FIRST SCOT. | 283/283 | 283 | 283 |
| ITCH LOV. | 99/99 | 99 | 99 |
| TRCHLOV. | 99/99 | 99 | 99 |
| ROSEMAN | 226/222 | 222 | 222 |
| REMS | 300/300 | 300 | 300 |
| FEIN, PE. J | 102/101 | 101 | 101 |
| FEIN, L. M. | 108/108 | 108 | 108 |
| FEIN, L. M. | 166/165 | 165 | 165 |
| FEIN, OSEA | 243/242 | 242 | 242 |
| FEIN, R. G. | 179/177 | 177 | 177 |
| FLO-TO-D | 30/30 | 30 | 30 |
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| FRANKS | 233/233 | 233 | 233 |
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ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1988

KUWAIT

[illegible]

FOLLOWING are the average

FOLLOWING are the average bid and ask interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday:

| Period | Bid | Offer |
|----------|---------|---------|
| 1 month | 3-11/16 | 4-3/16 |
| 3 months | 4-1/2 | 4-15/16 |
| 6 months | 4-13/16 | 5-3/16 |
| 1 year | 5-3/16 | 5-11/16 |

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|------|
| NET KALI | -- | 5 | 5 |
| URIC ACID | -- | -- | -- |
| KAY | 26.50 | 26 | |
| EMAUO | 28 | 28.25 | 27. |
| THYMO | -- | -- | -- |
| THYMO | 93.50 | 92.50 | |
| LIANCE | 103 | 103 | |
| IC | 33 | 33.25 | 33. |
| D MILLS | 270 | 255 | 2 |
| DMEDICAL | 14 | 14.50 | |
| EELTUBE | -- | 9.50 | 9. |
| TA PUR | 187.50 | 187.50 | 187. |
| TACHEM | 69 | 68 | |
| TAGIL | 86 | 86 | |
| LCO | 380 | 385 | 3 |
| ALPHOSPH | 270 | -- | |
| LTAS | -- | 265 | 272. |

LOKYO

| STOCK | LAST PR |
|------------|---------|
| AJJINOMOTO | 3250 |
| AKAI ELEC | 469 |
| AOKI | 935 |
| ASARI GAS | 1730 |
| ASARI OPT | 555 |
| BANK TOKYO | 1330 |
| BRIGHTSTON | 1230 |
| CANON | 980 |
| CASIO COMP | 1170 |
| CHUGAI MNG | 1470 |
| CITIZEN W | 570 |
| O-ICHI KAN | 2850 |
| DAI NIP IK | 737 |
| DAI NIP PT | 2540 |
| DAI NIP SC | 910 |
| DAI NIP TO | 450 |
| DATACORP | 1940 |
| DAIWA SEC | 545 |
| EBRA HFG | 825 |
| EISAI | 1510 |
| FUJITSU | 1450 |
| FUJI BANK | 3130 |
| FUJI PHOTO | 4080 |
| FUJISAWA | 1480 |
| FUJITA CP | 647 |
| HITACHI | 1270 |

| | | | |
|------|------------|------|-------|
| 153 | NITSUB CP | 1030 | 1030 |
| 154 | NITSUB EL | 564 | 565 |
| 1540 | NITSUB EST | 1630 | 1640 |
| 1935 | NITSUB HVY | 540 | 544 |
| 730 | NITSUI CO | 686 | 685 |
| 560 | NITSUKOSHI | 1440 | 1450 |
| 630 | NITSUMI EL | 930 | 940 |
| 290 | NICHICOM | 1310 | 1310 |
| 445 | NIKON CHMT | 749 | 730 |
| 850 | NIKKO SEC | 1500 | 1530 |
| 800 | NIP ELEC | 2080 | 2140 |
| 575 | NIP KROKAM | 283 | 282 |
| 850 | NIP OIL | 1030 | 1030 |
| 744 | NIP STEEL | 379 | 382 |
| 540 | NIP YUSEN | 328 | 503 |
| 925 | NIS MOTOR | 755 | 763 |
| 443 | NOHARA SEC | 2990 | 3020 |
| 789 | OHSA CO | 950 | 970 |
| 440 | OLYMPUS | 1010 | 1010 |
| 202 | PENTA OCN | 772 | 1,730 |
| 801 | PIONEER | 2770 | 2810 |
| 190 | RENOMAN | 820 | 805 |
| 590 | RICOH | 1260 | 1270 |
| 190 | SANKYO | 1890 | 1890 |
| 880 | SANYO ELEC | 454 | 468 |
| 512 | SEIYU ST | 1720 | 1680 |
| 850 | SEKISUI PB | 1600 | 1640 |
| 52 | SHARP | 975 | 990 |
| 10 | SHISEIO | 1460 | 1480 |

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| WILD FISHERIES | 0.142 | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| WILD POULTRY | 0.246 | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| WILD FISHES | 0.772 | ----- | ----- | ----- |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| -KAT. FOODS | 0.320 | 0.310 | 0.310 | 0.310 | 10000 | 1 |
| -AGRI. FOOD PRD. | 0.150 | | | | | |
| -NON-FOOT SECTOR | | | | | | |
| -BNN. INTER. BK | 0.073 | 0.073 | 0.073 | 0.072 | 520000 | 5 |
| -BNN. M. EAST. BK | 0.051 | | | | | |
| -UNTD. GULF BK | 0.050 | | | | | |
| -COAST INVEST. | 0.092 | | | | | |
| -A.G. INV. CORP | 0.041 | | | | | |
| -FIRST. GULF BK | 0.870 | | | | | |
| -S.K. I.G.E. | 0.092 | | | | | |
| KJAMAT STOCK EXCHANGE | | | | | | |
| COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL | | | | | | |
| FINANCIAL SECTOR | P.CLS | LT | HIGH | LOW | VOL | TRADE |
| -PEARL INV.CO. | 0.098 | | | | | |
| -GULF INV.CO. | 0.042 | | | | | |

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE
COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL

| KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE | | | | | | |
|---|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET | | LT | HIGH | LOW | VOL | TRADE |
| FINANCIAL SECTOR P.C.L.S | | | | | | |
| PEARL INV.CO. | 0.098 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| GULF INV.CO. | 0.042 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| GULF INTL INS | 0.000 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| ARAB INT CO. | 0.055 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| SHARJAH INS | 0.000 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| GULF UNION INS | 0.055 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR | | | | | | |
| B-GULF MEDICAL | 0.015 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| C-R.K.WHITE CMT | 0.017 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| D-AJRAH CEMENT | 0.007 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| E-FUJAIRAH CENT | 0.007 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| F-SHARJAH CEMENT | 0.007 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| G-GULF CEMENT | 0.014 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |

ZÜRICH

| ZURICH | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|--------|--|
| STOCK | LAST PR-CLSE | | |
| BAER HDGS | 10600 | 11000 | |
| BALOISE PS | 2025 | 2050 | |
| BBC PS | 245.00 | 246.00 | |
| SK LEU I | 2475 | 2475 | |
| AK LEU N | 2225 | 2200 | |
| SK LEU PS | 390 | 395 | |
| CFV | 0 | 1085 | |
| CTB GEIG I | 2540 | 2540 | |
| CTB GEIG N | 1340 | 1340 | |
| CTB GEIG P | 1700 | 1700 | |
| CKW | 0 | 1250 | |
| CRED SUI I | 2420 | 2450 | |
| CRED SUI N | 475 | 475 | |
| NESTLE I | 8120 | 8175 | |
| NESTLE N | 3960 | 3990 | |
| NESTLE PS | 1240 | 1250 | |
| OE BUEHR I | 875 | 890 | |
| OE BUEHR N | 0 | 220.00 | |
| OE BUEHR P | 225.00 | 225.00 | |
| ROCHE BABY | 9550 | 9600 | |
| RDCHE I | 0 | 90000 | |
| RUECKVER I | 12100 | 12100 | |
| RUECKVER N | 6250 | 6300 | |
| RUECKVER P | 1840 | 1860 | |
| RY TR BK | 930 | 950 | |
| S BNKGSL I | 3050 | 3115 | |
| S BNKGSL H | 600 | 615 | |
| S BNKGSL P | 115.00 | 115.00 | |
| S BNKVRN I | 326 | 330 | |
| S BNKVRN N | 275 | 278 | |

| | | |
|--------------|------|------|
| LEKTROMAT | 2900 | 2950 |
| ENS CHEM. I: | 2675 | 2700 |

| | | | | | |
|------------|------|------|------------|-------|-------|
| ELEKTROWAT | 2900 | 2950 | SAINDOZ I | 12050 | 12200 |
| EMS CHEN I | 2675 | 2700 | SAINDOZ N | 4400 | 4350 |
| EMS CHEN P | 0 | 0 | SAINDOZ PS | 1750 | 1780 |
| GLOBUS I | 7200 | 7350 | SULZER N | 3325 | 3575 |
| GLOBUS N | 0 | 6500 | SULZER PS | 310 | 325 |
| GLOBUS PS | 1120 | 1150 | SVB | 1640 | 1675 |
| JACOBS S I | 8025 | 8175 | SWISSAIR | 1000 | 1015 |
| JACOBS N | 0 | 1575 | SWISSAIR N | 885 | 905 |
| JACOBS S P | 685 | 700 | W THUR I | 4875 | 4900 |

| | | |
|---------|------|------|
| JEUM I | 2150 | 2200 |
| JEUM PS | 375 | 375 |

| | | | | | |
|----------|--------|--------|-----------|------|------|
| JELM I | 2150 | 2260 | U THUR N | 2490 | 2525 |
| JELM PS | - 375 | 375 | U THUR PS | 665 | 680 |
| LAMIS N | 1200 | 1200 | ZURICH I | 5180 | 5175 |
| LAMIS PS | 100.00 | 103.00 | ZURICH N | 2475 | 2500 |
| MERCK I | 660 | 685 | ZURICH PS | 1705 | 1705 |

Funds

Three-month funds rose 10 4/8

Three-month funds rose to 4-7/8, 3/8 per cent from 4-3/4, 3/8 then fell back to 4-3/4, 3/8 per cent. They dealt early in the day at 4-1/2 per cent. Six-months rose to 4-1/8 point in 5-1/8, 4-5/8 per cent then declined to five, 4-7/8.

The Central Bank raised its dollar exchange rate in 2.7557/6 to the dollar from 2.7640/50 on Monday. The spot dollar was quoted at 2.7650/70 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, Saudi rial inter-bank deposits rose in active trade

5/8 per cent firm 6-1/4, 1/8 early in the day and 6-11/16, 1/2 on Monday.

Three-months rose to 7-1/8, seven per cent from 6-7/8, 3/4 per cent. Six-months was quoted at seven, 7-1/4 per cent while one-year edged up 1/8 point on the offer side in 7-3/8, 1/4 per cent.

Short dates also climbed, with spot-nest rising in 7-3/4, 1/4 per cent from 6-1/2, 1/4 on Monday. One-week rose in 7-1/4, 6-3/4 per cent from 6-5/8, 3/8.

The spot rial was steady at 3.7505/10 to the dollar.

WEEK OF JAN. 11 - 15

WEEKLY FORECAST WEEK OF JAN. 11 - 15

THE NIKKEI HAS BEEN STRUGGLING BETWEEN 21000 AND 22000 OVER SOME MAJOR CONCERNS. ONE IS THE SHARP RISE OF THE YEN AND ITS SHORT-TERM EFFECT ON CORPORATE EARNINGS. OFFSETTING THIS LAST WEEK WAS THE NEW GOVT. POLICY ALLOWING TOKIO AND FUDJ. TRUSTS TO INCREASE SHARE HOLDINGS AT LOWER OF MARKET OR BOOK VALUE, COUNTERING FEARS OF SELLOFF FOR ACCOUNTING PURPOSES. THIS WEEK, HOWEVER, DOLLAR INTERVENTION AND AN IMPROVING ECONOMIC OUTLOOK WILL TRY TO BRING THE MARKET. IN CONJUNCTION WITH A HEAVY INDUSTRY, SHOULD DO WELL.

RELEASE OF THE TRADE FIGURES
WERE NOT AS BAD AS THEY

ABOUT THE 350 TRADING
 RELEASED ON THE TRADING
 WERE NOT AS BAD AS THEY
 AT THE BANK OF TOKYO.
 BUT, BUT A RELIEF ANYWAY
 THE NIKKEI AVERAGE
 306.55 POINTS ON MONDAY
 TURNOVER OF 550 MLN SHARES
 COMMUNICATIONS, SECTOR
 RUBBER, PULP/PAPER, RAIL
 ROLLING STOCK SHARES FEEL
 PHARMACEUTICAL, FOOD
 METALS AND SERVICE ISSUES
 JAPAN'S OVERALL 8.6%
 WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN
 APPREHENSION PRIOR TO IT
 RECENT FOCUS ON THE JAPANESE
 THERE WAS NO WORRY
 OMACHI OF SANVO SECURITY
 IT'S NOT ANYTHING
 THE U.S. FIGURES, THE SANVO
 BROKERS SAID TO THE NANYA
 A DOLLAR WOULD HEAD,
 A SURPRISINGLY TRIMMED
 MARKET SEEMED LESS NERVOUS
 ABOUT THE JAPAN FIGURES
 THERE JUST ISN'T A
 IMPACT, A BROKER AT OMACHI
 SAID, PRIOR TO THE TRADING

NOTE
 WEEKLY FORECAST
 THE NIKKEI HAS BEEN STRUCK
 MAJOR CONCERNS. ONE IS THE
 TERM EFFECT ON CORPORATE
 WAS THE NEW GOVT. POLICY
 VALUE SHARE HOLDINGS AT
 LING FEARS OF SELLOFF FOR
 EVERY, DOLLAR INTERVENTION
 ABOUT THE MARKET. IN CON-

THE GULF BANK K.S.C.

| Exchange Service Murgab | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tel: 2438055; 2447151 | |
| 8.30 to 12 noon; 4.30 to 7.30 pm | |
| Indian Rupee | 21.120 |
| Pakistan Rupee | 18.600 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 8.975 |
| Philippine Peso | 13.151 |
| US dollars | 278.20 |
| Sterling Pounds | 462.80 |
| Chow Money Market Fund | Bid USD 12.95 |
| | Offer USD 12.98 |
| The Islamic Fund | Bid USD 5.50 |
| | Offer USD 5.95 |
| Golden Investors | USD 5.00% |
| | USD 6.00% |
| | GBP 7.50% |

FOLLOWING are inter-

FOLLOWING are international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday:

| | Buying | Selling |
|----------|---------------|----------------|
| US dir | 27472 | 27611 |
| Stg. | 488453 | 492024 |
| D.M | 163914 | 165235 |
| S. fr | 201113 | 202870 |
| F. fr | 048537 | 048955 |
| It lira | .0002230 | .0002260 |
| J. Yen | .002123 | .002143 |
| B dinar | 728316 | 732965 |
| UAE dir | 074784 | 075192 |
| S. riyal | 073229 | 073648 |
| Q. riyal | 075410 | 075916 |
| O. riyal | .712635 | .718096 |

to Jordan

WASHINGTON, Jan 19, (AP)—The US government's Export-Import Bank has offered to guarantee a loan to help Jordan buy \$50 million to \$70 million worth of US equipment to mine phosphates.

The bank said in an announcement distributed over the weekend that the offer was made to meet competition from financing backed by the British and Italian governments.

Details of the offer were not disclosed. Contracts have not yet been awarded, the bank said.

The announcement said bank officials had studied the case and

discussed it with "concerned parties", whom it did not identify. "Eximbank's board found that on balance and short- and long-term benefits to the US mining equipment manufacturers are likely to outweigh the potential injury to US phosphate producers," the announcement

It quoted the bank's president, John A. Bohn Jr., as saying:
"The closeness of the call between the pros and the cons led us to believe that any further support in the form of a government-subsidised loan could not be justified."
It pointed out that Jordan is committed in any case to compete the \$90-million project at the Shidija mine of the Jordan

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Australia's sagging economy gets trade boost

SYDNEY, Jan 19, (Reuters): Australia's economy, caught in the recent world financial turmoil, received a boost with official statistics today showing a significant improvement in the country's trade performance.

The current account deficit, a key economic indicator measuring exports of goods and services, fell to \$658 million Australian dollars (\$467 million) last month from \$31 million dollars (\$590 million) in November.

The figures showed the government's budgetary strategy was on track and the economy was recovering steadily after the recent share market crash, financial analysts said.

Market sentiment was given a fillip as exports, mainly in wool, wheat and manufacturing, rose by 15 per cent in December against only a three per cent increase in imports, they said.

The Australian dollar, which opened around 71 US cents, rose to 71.15 immediately after the announcement.

Lloyds Bank chief economist Warren Bird said the local currency was expected to stay at the same level in the coming months. Further falls in interest rates were also likely.

Inflation, now running at an annual rate of about eight per cent, also was likely to fall to between seven and seven-and-a-half per cent this year, he said.

Economists warned, however, that Australia still had a long way to go before overcoming its balance of payments and foreign debt problems.

If the present trend continued, the country could end the financial year in June with a current account shortfall of over 12 billion dollars (\$8.5 billion), analysts said. In the first half of the year ending June 30 the total deficit was 6.05 billion (\$4.29 billion).

Australia owed creditors \$40.72 billion at the end of June last year, according to figures released by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development and the Bank for International Settlements yesterday.

This would make Australia the third largest debtor nation outside major industrialised countries. The country's debt is surpassed only by Brazil with \$88.88 billion and Mexico with \$80.71 billion.

Study on steel institute

DOHA, Jan 19, (Opecna): The Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (Goic) has conducted a study on the establishment of an institute to coordinate cooperation among the region's steel industries.

The institute will study the development of the steel industry and organise cooperation among Goic member states.

It will also upgrade the efficiency of the work force through training courses, as well as help establish specifications of products.

Saudis try to increase exports to Taiwan

Overall trade growth set to surge ahead

RIYADH, Jan 19, (Kuna): The Saudi-Chinese Joint Commission for economic and technical cooperation began its tenth session here today under the co-chairmanship of Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammad Aba Al Khail and Lee Ta-Hai, the Economic Affairs Minister of the Republic of China (ROC).

At the outset of the meeting, on behalf of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz, the people and government of Saudi Arabia, Aba Al Khail expressed condolences on the sad demise of President Chiang Ching Kuo, whom he described as a great leader and a friend of Saudi Arabia, who did much to enhance relations between the two countries.

Affirmed

He affirmed that this session will be as fruitful as the commission's past sessions.

Aba Al Khail said the economic and technical cooperation agreement between the two countries is now well into its second decade of highly successful operation, adding that it has strengthened the close bilateral ties and provided an excellent framework for mutual benefits.

Aba Al Khail said the most visible link in the recent history of economic relations is bilateral trade as in recent years, "we have been each other's fourth largest partner."

Growth

"The rapid growth in our mutual trade greatly demonstrates the overall growth in our economic relations. Only 15

Share prices ease

Dollar sinks and gold rises

LONDON, Jan 19, (AP): The US dollar closed lower against major foreign currencies in Europe today following news of a high Japanese trade surplus. Gold hullion prices rose.

The dollar tumbled overnight following the report that Japan's trade surplus widened to \$8.6 billion in December from \$4.74 billion in November.

Foreign currency dealers said the surplus exceeded most expectations and raised fears that the American trade deficit would widen again in December, reversing the sharp improvement reported for November last week.

Down

European traders bid the dollar up this morning but fresh selling in the afternoon pushed it down again.

The dollar closed in Tokyo at 128.90 Japanese yen, down from 130.50 yen yesterday. In later

London trading, the dollar was quoted at 129.15 yen.

The dollar fell against the British pound. In London it cost \$1.7750 to buy one pound late today more expensive than yesterday's \$1.7705.

Other late dollar rates in Europe compared with late yesterday:

— 1.6815 West German marks, down from 1.6840

— 1.3695 French francs, down from 1.3625

— 1.8895 Dutch guilders, down from 1.8920

— 1.234.50 Italian lire, down from 1.235.58

— 1.2870 Canadian dollars, down from 1.2880

Gold rose in quiet trading to a late bid price of \$477 a troy ounce in both London and Zurich. That compares with late yesterday's \$475.00 in London and 475.50 in Zurich.

Earlier, the metal closed in

Hong Kong at a bid \$479.07, up from \$477.91.

Silver prices fell marginally in London where the metal was trading at a late bid price of \$6.68 a troy ounce compared with yesterday's \$6.69.

Some dealers said they have overdone things when hectic buying on Friday, after the US trade report, pushed the dollar five pence higher in the space of a few minutes.

Some, in fact, may have missed the boat. They risked losing money on earlier commitments to sell dollars — so-called 'short' positions.

"I believe the (US) trade figures surprised a lot of people who were holding short positions," said Swiss bank trader in Zurich, where the dollar jumped from an opening 1.3635 Swiss francs to trade just below yesterday's close of 1.3730 francs.

Earlier, the metal closed in

between 1.30 and 1.36 because it rose so fast, and now they are looking to cover the shorts on the dips," he said.

But while that kind of buying propped the dollar, stock markets were under pressure.

French and West German shares eased. Amsterdam's CBS All-Share Index slipped 0.4 points to 71.4 and the All-Share Swiss index fell nearly 1.2 per cent or nine points, to 768.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell nearly one per cent or 24.04 points to 2,512.19. Singapore shares closed lower with the Straits Times Industrial index down 5.41 points to 912.18 but Sydney's All-Ordinaries index gained 5.1 points to 1,298.6.

London's FTSE 100-share index fell more than 20 points, or one per cent to drop below 1,770 while Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market eased slightly.

Recovery may turn into stagnation

Philippines must now focus on economy

MANILA, Jan 19, (Reuters): The Philippines has emerged from a tumultuous year with democracy apparently firmly in place after Monday's local elections, but there is no euphoria among analysts over the country's economic prospects.

The economy has turned in its best growth in seven years, but the analysts said recovery may turn into stagnation unless Manila takes firm steps to tackle a daunting array of problems.

They said that with the polls out of the way, no more elections due until 1992, and a two-year process of political consolidation complete, effective management of the still-unsteady economy now topped President Corason Aquino's agenda.

Expectation

"After this the expectation is that the full concentration will be focused on economic recovery," said Aurelio Periquet, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "We have no more excuses."

The Philippines' gross national product grew by an estimated 5.1 per cent last year after a small 1.5 per cent growth in 1986, a contraction of 10.6 per

cent over 1985 and 1984, and a steady decline since 1980 when it grew by five per cent.

Periquet was cautious, saying: "A comparison with other developing countries in the region shows that our performance last year, respectable as it is, still ranks near the bottom."

Doubt

Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez told a businessmen's meeting last week that much still needed to be done. "As we look ahead there is little doubt in my mind but that the overriding need for the economy is credible management," he said.

He noted that the Philippines' \$28.48 billion foreign debt equaled 87 per cent of the gross national product, the sum total of goods and services produced in a country.

Economic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod said earlier this month that debt servicing would gobble up \$3.03 billion in 1988, up from 2.9 billion last year, despite the rescheduling of about \$14 billion of debt in 1987.

Manuel Montes, economics professor at the University of the Philippines, noted that growth in 1987 had been consumer-led, but

investments needed to flow in at a faster pace this year.

"Otherwise, the economy might overheat," Montes said.

Demand

Periquet echoed him, saying: "Rising consumer demand unmatched by a corresponding increase in industry's productive capacity will eventually lead to inflation rather than real growth."

Finance Secretary Vincente Jayme said earlier this month that the level of investments was a crucial element in the country's targeted 1988 growth.

"It is important in 1988 that confidence in the economy must be there to allow a significant increase in investments on the part of the private sector," Jayme said.

Investors

Referring to a military coup attempt five months ago that nearly toppled Aquino and is widely believed to have scared off many potential investors, he added: "All told I think unless something of the magnitude of the August 28 event takes place that 1988 will be a good year."

Board of investment figures show that local investors poured

\$202 million in the January-October 1987 period, while foreign investors, who adopted a wary wait-and-see posture, contributed only \$125 million.

The analysts also noted that the country's 1987 performance masked other major target shortfalls.

Agriculture was hit by two big typhoons and a severe drought and expanded by only 0.7 per cent in 1987 against targeted growth of four per cent and 1986 growth of 3.7 per cent.

Exports

Meanwhile, the country's exports shrank by 3.3 per cent against a targeted 5.4 per cent growth and 1986 growth of 21.3 per cent and imports soared by 20.7 per cent against a targeted 12.3 per cent and 1986 growth of 25.44 per cent.

Omar Cruz, senior economist at the independent Centre for Research and Communication, said exports needed to grow by an average 15 per cent annually in the period up to 1992 if Manila wanted to meet its annual GNP growth target of 6.5 per cent.

"If we're willing to stop being sceptics and defeatist, we might just about hack it," he added.

World's bank regulators want fewer banks

LONDON, Jan 19, (Reuters): Regulators in leading industrial nations feel there are too many banks competing for too little business and believe that, if some do not merge, some may fail, senior regulatory sources say.

Last month a top-level group of regulators, the so-called Cooke Committee, aimed to do something to help out when they proposed common international standards for bank capital — the funds banks hold in reserve as a cushion against bankruptcy.

Competitive

Regulatory sources said key goals of the Cooke Committee standards were to discourage banks from entering into unprofitable ventures and to

encourage them to merge.

"Banks today have to face many competitive pressures, from their own kind and from non-banks. This is particularly so in respect of international business and I think it is probably true to say that in this regard the world as a whole is overbanked," said Peter Cooke, the associate director of the Bank of England who chaired the committee.

The Cooke Committee worried that with too little capital, the world's banking system could not withstand serious shocks and that some banks could collapse, regulatory sources involved in the committee's talks told Reuters.

The officials from Belgium,

Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Britain and the United States comprising the committee were especially worried because of the Third World debt crisis.

The basic tool the committee proposed using — in order to steer the world's banks in the direction officials think they ought to take — was to require banks to set aside specific amounts of capital before undertaking certain types of business.

Mergers

That costs a bank money and, regulatory sources said, it could be enough to discourage the sort of fierce competition that has

shaped profits on many kinds of lending.

Meanwhile, to avoid discouraging mergers, the Cooke Committee decided to reject arguments that banks should be penalised for owning other banks' shares or bonds, regulatory sources said.

The committee itself said such penalties "could impede certain significant and desirable changes taking place in the structure of domestic banking systems."

Under the Cooke Committee standards, even Japan's banking giants could be candidates for mergers, regulatory sources said.

"If the Japanese think it will be good for Japan, they'll do it," said one bank supervisor.

Local banks tell branches not to accept short-term deposits

SOME of the local banks have instructed their branches not to accept large deposits for less than three months in order to avoid accepting of short-term deposits in general.

A local newspaper quoted some bankers as saying that the banks were facing many difficulties in using their funds which consisted mainly of deposits, particularly short term ones.

Rates

They explained that the interest rates for short term deposits among the local banks ranged between three and four per cent and they were paying

depositors more than 5 per cent interest. This meant a loss of at least two per cent.

Deposits

Meanwhile, officials of treasury departments at banks said that the sole and traditional means for activating funds were short term deposits, but for the time being the situation had become very difficult, particularly after the directors of local banks gave strict instructions banning the transfer of big amounts from deposits in Kuwaiti dinars to foreign currencies because the directors feared the fluctuations in exchange rates

would lead to drastic losses.

An official source at one bank said he had tried to convince the board of directors to increase the deposits in foreign banks in order to avoid the losses which may occur but they refused.

He added that this refusal was partly due to fear of exchange rate fluctuations and due to compliance with Central Bank instructions banning the flow of funds overseas. Some bankers said that the suggestions for investment in the basket of currencies to avoid fluctuations in the exchange rate were not entertained.



Lipton dried and instant soup was introduced at a seminar held by the local agent of Lipton Tea Company, Mohammed Abdulrahman Al Bahar, at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on Monday. Lipton's food manager, Alok Kumar, came specially for the occasion and gave a detailed presentation to the gathering.

There are eight different varieties of the soup, flavoured to suit the tastes of Middle East consumers. Picture shows officials having soup near a display of the various soups.

IBM fourth quarter earnings jump

NEW YORK, Jan 19, (Reuters): International Business Machines Corp., the world's biggest computer company, said today its 1987 fourth quarter earnings jumped 50.2 per cent, but the rise was at the low end of securities analysts' estimates.

The price of IBM shares on the New York Stock Exchange fell \$2.50, to \$115.25, after the announcement.

IBM said fourth quarter earnings totalled \$2.09 billion, up from 1.39 billion in the same quarter of 1986.

IBM's results are a bellwether for the technology sector of US industry and can have a big influence on the stock market. Also, IBM shares are in the Dow Jones industrial average of 30 leading stocks, making a move in IBM shares a factor for the whole market.

Earnings

On a per-share basis, earnings rose to \$3.47 from 2.28. Analysts had expected IBM to earn between 3.50 and 3.60 a share, although some estimates were as low as 3.25 and as high as 3.75.

Fourth-quarter 1987 revenues rose 6.3 per cent to \$18.01 billion from 16.95 billion in the final

1986 quarter. For all of 1987, IBM earned \$5.26 billion, up from 4.79 billion in 1986, while revenues rose to \$42.22 billion from 51.25 billion.

IBM said it planned for growth in 1988 but was concerned about economic uncertainties this year.

Concerned

"Although we remain concerned about the uncertainties in the worldwide economy as we move into 1988, we are planning for growth," said IBM chairman John Akers.

"We continue to invest for the long term and we remain confident about the future of our industry and IBM," he said.

IBM said costs and expenses for the fourth quarter rose to \$14.96 billion from 14.47 billion a year earlier, and for the whole

year rose to 46.48 billion from 43.39 billion in 1986.

The company's earnings while showing an increase, were at the low end of securities analysts' estimates and could be considered in a negative light by some investors.

But Shearson Lehman Brothers analyst Bill Lord said the figures should not be a disappointment, although he agreed they were "toward the lower end" of Wall Street estimates.

Since the October stock market crash, worries have surfaced over whether companies and companies — fearing a recession — will tighten their spending.

IBM is one of the first big companies to report full 1987 results and its expectations for 1988.

China reimposes price controls on key raw materials

BEIJING, Jan 19, (UPI): China reimposed price controls on key raw materials today, signaling major failures in Beijing's ambitious reform programme to phase out central planning and allow the market to set prices.

Western diplomats expressed dismay at the move, describing it as a serious setback for the reforms. They noted Beijing has worked for two years to free prices of several major commodities as part of a bid to revitalise flagging production in state enterprises.

Two sets of regulations setting price ceilings on oil, gas, electricity, steel, timber, coal, rubber, farm chemicals and other major raw materials as well as on shipping, railway and air transport were published by the official Peoples Daily newspaper. The rules were issued by the State Council, China's cabinet.

Curtail

The People's Daily, the Communist Party organ, described the move, which will severely curtail the fluctuation of prices for goods both inside and outside the state plan, as an "important event" in China's economic development.

Under the state plan, the government lays down production quotas for most major industries and purchases the goods at a set price.

But for the last two years, the government has allowed factories to dispose of goods produced over state quota on the free market in an incentive aimed at boosting efficiency and phasing out Soviet-style central planning.

The market, or "negotiated," price of many raw materials has skyrocketed to 300 or 400 per cent above state set prices, arousing fierce opposition from factories unable to obtain scarce raw materials from the government and forced to pay the

higher prices. Newspapers, for example, have complained that the cost of newsprint on the free market is 400 per cent higher than the state price and more than twice the world price.

Chaos

The State Council said the new rules were being implemented to combat "wildly" rising prices last year which resulted in "market chaos."

Diplomats said the reimposition of price ceilings highlights the problems China is encountering in its bid to reduce central planning and allow market factors to set prices, yet at the same time retain a level of state control.

In an indication the price controls will extend beyond industry and into the marketplace, Beijing announced it will raise the price paid by the government to farmers for grain, edible oils and sugar, from April 1, while subsidising the cost to urban consumers.

The move is part of a bid to spur agricultural production while cushioning the blow to urban dwellers, already staggering under inflation estimated at almost 20 per cent last year.

Economic analysts describe the move as essential if China is to avoid the shortages which led to the reimposition of pork and sugar rationing at the end of last year.

Burden

But they noted the increase in subsidies will mean a further burden on the already limited state budget and marks a severe setback for price reforms, which were initially seen as a means to reduce state subsidies.

Grain output has lagged since 1984 when Beijing launched its ambitious urban market-oriented economic reforms, leaving agriculture to follow the path of the rural reforms introduced in 1979.

السؤال الأول



THE 113-metre Spanish barquentine Juan Sebastian de Elcano, moves to a berth under Sydney Harbour Bridge escorted by fire tugs and welcoming small craft after entering the heads under near-full sails today. The ship is in Sydney for the Australian Bicentenary celebrations to be held on Jan 26. (Reuter wirephoto)



RESEARCHERS at the University of Illinois announced yesterday what they said was a major breakthrough in the battle against bugs — an insecticide that turns sunlight into a death ray. The discovery was announced by Dr Constantin Rebelz, pictured above. (Reuter wirephoto)



HAITIAN presidential candidate Leslie Manigat gives a victory sign as he arrives for a press conference on Sunday at his campaign headquarters. Haiti's opposition has accused the Army of manipulating Sunday's elections in favour of Manigat. (Reuter wirephoto)



WEST BERLIN passers-by are having an unusual breakfast in West Berlin's underground yesterday. This publicity stunt was organised by a West German marketing organisation CMA for agricultural products to draw attention to the International Green Week which starts on Jan 29 in West Berlin. (Reuter wirephoto)



JENNIFER JEFFERS, who walked away from a plane crash, is checked by Houston police paramedic on Monday. Jeffers walked for help from the crash where one person was killed and seven injured. The two engine private plane, flying from Monterrey, Mexico, crashed on approach to Houston, Texas, in fog. (Reuter wirephoto)



A STREET worker cleans a street in Manila of election campaign materials yesterday after a vote for local elections was concluded. (Reuter wirephoto)



WOMEN measure beans at the Wukro feeding centre outside Mekelle, Tigray on Jan 7. In the background thousands of famine victims queue for their monthly ration of 16.5 kilos of food per person — about 1,750 calories per person per day. Pictured left, an Italian doctor listens to the heartbeat of a starving 11-month-old baby girl in the Mekelle Clinic. An Italian medical team are daily treating hundreds of famine victims in Mekelle. (Reuter wirephoto)



WEST GERMAN Chancellor Helmut Kohl points at a painting behind Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during a photo opportunity in the Bonn Chancellery yesterday. Shevardnadze ended his visit to West Germany yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



KAREN ADAMS shows off her son Michael Mark Phillip Adams, born at 33,000 feet over Algeria on a British Airways flight from London to Harare, last Friday. He was named Michael after the Captain Michael George and Phillip after the doctor Phillip Blom who delivered him. (Reuter wirephoto)



MEMBERS of the Indian President's bodyguard, parade down Rajpath from the Presidential Palace yesterday, during a rehearsal for the Republic Day celebrations on Jan 26 in New Delhi. (Reuter wirephoto)



AN unidentified boy helps his neighbours on Monday by providing free rides in his rubber raft, across a flooded street in the coastal community of Mission Beach, California. Waves reaching ten to 16-feet-high and gale force winds more than 60 mph flooded coastal areas throughout northern California. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKET PLACE

ACCOMMODATION

For Rent

AL BIDAE, Gulf Road, deluxe, CAC, 2 floors of villa comprising 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living, dining area, outside building, beautiful garden and terrace, fully carpeted. Rent KD600. Tele. 5391720, 5382783, 1-8 pm. (AT1-40552-6)

SALWA, (near Kuwait English School) deluxe, CAC, new apartments comprising 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living, dining area, large kitchen and balcony. Rent KD290. Tele 5391720, 5382783, 1-8 pm. (AT1-40551-6)

RUMATHIYA, part of a villa: 2 big bedrooms with balconies, 1 hall, English bathroom and kitchen. Available from 1st Feb. Rent KD130. Tele 5330680, 9 am - 9 pm. (AT4-40584-3)

SHAMIYA, A house for a family, preferably Filipino. Tele. 2419165/63. (AT4-40608-3)

SULAIKHA, half villa, deluxe, fully furnished with tele, TV, video, stereo, washing machine, dryer, refrigerator, freezer and cooker. Rent KD250 with water and electricity. Tele 4872261. (AT4-40297-3)

Available

FAHAHEEL, near Water Filling Station. Accommodation in a CAC 3 bedroom flat for a small Indian family or 2 bachelors. Tele. Mr Bagga, 3922106, 4.30 pm onwards. (AT3-40590-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind fire station and Indian grocery shop, one room for a family or working girls to share with a family. Rent KD65. Tele. Tariq, 2445768. (AT4-40612-3)

SALMIYA, Dasma, Two rooms for small families. Tele Mr Imran, 5655426, 2404223. (AT5-40633-3)

SALMIYA, near 5th Ring Road. One room in a 2 bedroom flat for one Indian bachelor/working lady to share with an Indian family. Rent KD35. Tele. 5624725, 8.30 am - 5.30 pm. (AT3-40578-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, One independent room in a 2 bedroom flat with kitchen and tele. facilities for 2 or 3 Indian bachelors. Rent KD 35 each. Tele. 2445561, 5 - 9 pm. (AT3-40572-3)

BENEID AL QAR near the Kuwait Continental Hotel. One furnished room for bachelors. Tele. Mr Anwar, 2403097. (AT5-40633-3)

Wanted

ACCOMMODATION required for a European lady with an European or an American. Tele. 5652137, 1-9 pm. (AT5-40617-2)

FOR SALE

Boats

HAMMOND V1950 open bow 19.5 ft 260 HP Mercruiser inboard, comfortable seating 6 plus, good skidding, diving, leisure boat. In good condition. KD1600. Tele. Frank Wright 3946175. (AT4-40604-3)

Cars

ISUZU Aska, 1985, 4 doors, fully automatic, gear, windows, lock, mirror etc.) 35,000 kms. like new. KD1250. Tele. 3919903. (AT3-40591-3)

JAGUAR XJ12 83 model, 12 cylinders, 5.2 litre, 45000 kms. white, in very good condition. KD 3500 (fixed price). Tele. Marc, 5653000 ext 370. (AT3-40575-3)

PUMA, convertible '82, designed by Porsche 38,000 kms. Owner leaving Kuwait. In good condition. KD1000 ono. Tele: Sukh 2452880, 5337730 after 6pm. (AT4-40589-3)

NISSAN Patrol 1986 Safari Jeep, AC, long wheel, 4 wheel drive, black, 40,000 kms. Diplomat selling. In excellent condition. KD 3600, cash. Tele. Mr Javald, 2546022, 2546213, 8 am - 2 pm. (AT3-40579-3)

CHRYSLER New Yorker 1981, black, fully automatic with AC, radio and cassette. In excellent condition. KD 600. Tele. Steve, 3260177 ext 5481, off. 3942302, res. (AT3-40575-3)

NISSAN Patrol, 1981 model, 80,000 kms, engine and gear box, overhauled in Feb, registered upto Oct 88. All extras in excellent condition. KD1200. Tele Klaus, 5332356, 3904177. (AT3-40583-3)

PORSCHE 928, 79 model, red, maintained by Behbehani, in very good condition. Tele Josef, 3904177, 5332356, after 2 pm. (AT3-40582-3)

2 PORSCHE 930 turbos, '86 model, sport, one red and one dark, grey metallic, guaranteed upto December, 1988. Both are in excellent condition. Tele. 9016677, 2408756. (AT6-40276-6)

DODGE Ramcharger, 1978 model, 4 wheel drive, manual, with new tyres, tested upto October 88. KD 650, ono. Tele. 5743390. (AT3-40575-3)

GALANT 1984, supersalon, fully automatic with sunroof. KD950. Tele Mr Yaqoob, 2464442. (AT5-40632-2)

PORSCHE 928S-4, 87 model, automatic, 23,000 kms. blue metallic, blue leather interior, with full options, guaranteed for 2 years. KD18,500. Tele. Emad, 9039429, 2519900. (AT4-40613-3)

TOYOTA Corolla GT 1984, hatchback, 80,000 kms. manual, in excellent condition. KD1150. Tele. 5339620, after 3pm. (AT4-40589-3)

OLDSMOBILE Delta 88, 1981 model, good runner, Buick Le Sabre 1977, reliable. KD495, 275 respectively. Tele Mr. Ashlan, 4878197, after 1pm. (AT4-40598-3)

TOYOTA Corolla 1.6, 84 model, in excellent condition. KD900, negotiable. Tele. Tariq Mahmood, 5651322. (AT4-40609-3)

TOYOTA Corolla XL, 1987 model, metallic silver, automatic, 23,000 kms, insured upto April 1990, in excellent condition. KD2000, ono. Tele Mr Mujahid, 5745172, 9 am - 4 pm. (AT4-40599-3)

GALANT 1982, automatic, white with AC and cassette, insured upto October '88, in excellent condition. Tele. Azeed, 2648252. (AT5-40630-2)

Furniture

KEA dining-room suite, garden furniture, pine and brown cord sofa set, pine bureau, book case and other household items. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. Kevin James, 2445372. (AT4-40563-3)

WOODEN dining room set with buffet table and four chairs, in good condition. KD120 (fixed). Tele. 3947564, after 3.30 pm. (AT5-40618-6)

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Entertainers or any one with an interesting or unused talent or act, suitable for inclusion in Uncle Charley's Childrens Show, should contact Uncle Charley's on 5636675

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Computers

AMSTRAD 8512, twin disc, with various software monitor and LQ printer. One year old, as new. KD290. Tele. N.W. Law 5616501 2-6 pm. (AT5-40629-3)

IBM PC/XT with 640K Ram, two 5-1/4 disk drives, 30 megabyte hard disk, multifunction card, colour card, Epson printer, monitor, mouse, many programmes and manuals. KD675, fixed. Tele. 3947564. After 3.30 pm. (AT5-40618-6)

IBM PC-XT 100%, compatible 2x360 FDD, 640KB Ram, monochrome monitor, one month old KD185. Tele. 3983510, 3911491. (AT5-40626-3)

Miscellaneous

HOUSEHOLD furniture, sofa set, kitchen cabinets, chest of drawers, display cabinet, wall lamps, girls cycle and tools. Tele 5716995 from 6-7 pm. (AT4-40593-3)

DOUBLE oven electric cooker, JVC, TV, (Pal/Secam), IBM PC/XT, and other appliances. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. Kevin James 2445372. (AT4-40563-3)

DESERT Racer, 1986 RM250 Suzuki, front/rear racing suspension, many accessories and spares, KD650. Tele. 3947564 after 3.30 pm. (AT5-40616-6)

WINDSURFER TC Leaper 315 cm. Six metre semi-batton sail complete, in excellent condition. KD75. Tele. 5389173. (AT5-40625-3)

BRAND new short minkcoat for sale. Lady owner leaving Kuwait. Tele 5657357, after 4 pm. (AT4-40603-3)

Steiner Beauty Therapy Training School at Al Remal Est. For Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy. Offers diplomas in Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy. The new courses start from January 1988. Transportation available. Some treatment services are free of charge, others at reasonable prices. **AL REMAL EST.** Arwad Al Sabah Complex, Block 2B, 3rd Floor, Office No. 1 Tel: 2429911/2429888 from 8.30 am to 7 pm.

The Bestseller book of the '87 **Spy Catcher** is once again available at **The Family Bookshop Salmiya** Tel 5714340

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FRIGIDAIRE refrigerator (USA) 24 cu.ft. white, original price KD222, selling KD198, Philips five burners, stainless steel, original price KD138, selling KD118. Both three months old. Tele. 5634331. (AT4-40606-3)

SHAAB, spacious 2 bedroom CAC flat, 2 toilets, storeroom, with telephone for sale. Rent KD180 monthly. From Feb 88. Tele. 4719517 mornings, 5629070 any time. (AT4-40614-2)

LOST

PASSPORT, No. 488439 in the name of Ghazi Khan Lazo Khan, Pakistan. Mr Kashem or Mr Karim 3929242 or contact the Pakistan Embassy. (AT5-40624-3)

MISCELLANEOUS

AVAILABLE 1/2 container, leaving for Delhi 2nd or 3rd week of March. For details contact Uppal 4742532, 47351188 am - 1 pm and 4-7 pm. (AT5-40605-3)

CHILDRENS' cookery classes. Tele Gail Nugent 5636675. (AT5-40628-2)

COOKING classes: learn to cook exotic party dishes the easy way and also catering orders at home in Jabriya. For further details contact Tele. 5332652. (AT4-40616-3)

SITUATIONS

Vacant

HOUSEMAID required, Filipino. Must be experienced in domestic duties and between 25 to 35 years old. Tele. 4839740. (AT4-40610-3)

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MAID required for an English family. Must have a good command of English language. Tele. Mrs Marks, 5382418, 7.30 pm. (AT4-40600-2)

Wanted

MAID, Indian, has been with us for the last 9 years, request part-time morning work when we leave Kuwait. Excellent references. Tele. Kevin James 2445372. (AT4-40563-3)

MAID, Filipino, English speaking, experienced with children and housework. Prefers to work for American, European, British or Australian family, has transferable visa and wants full-time work. Tele. Feily, 4897810. (AT4-40615-3)

SECRETARY, female, Indian with 5 years experience in typing, telex and correspondence with transferable residence, seeks full-time employment. Tele 5611721. (AT3-40595-3)

PETS

CAT, two lovely tabby house cats, 22 months old, totally house-trained: free to a loving family. Tele. Kevin James 2445372. (AT4-40563-3)

SERVICES

Tuition

PRE-school and nursery training, for children of 2 1/2 years old and above, given by an experienced and qualified teacher. In Fahaheel. Excellent environment. Transport available. Tele. 3927875 8 am - 7 am. (AT4-40580-3)

FOR RENT * Villas * Part Villas * Flats * Offices Excellent condition with 2-3-4 Bedrooms with Dining room, Saloon, Telephone, Gardens, Car parking space, Servant's quarters with Central Airconditioning. Contact **Qatar Real Estate** Tel: 2406592, 2406593.

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1. In a good location in Al Rai Industrial Area, a showroom with 5 doors, 250 square metres, central AC, new decoration, a garden and fully equipped kitchen and bathroom.

NBA ROUNDUP

Wilkins takes Knicks to victory over Hawks

NEW YORK, Jan. 19, (AP)—Gerald Wilkins scored 28 points and Patrick Ewing had 20 as the New York Knicks overcame 45 points by Gerald's brother, Dominique to beat the Atlanta Hawks 110-102 yesterday.

Dominique Wilkins is now averaging 38 points in his last six games, but his performance was not enough to prevent the Hawks from losing for only the third time in 13 games.

An 11-0 run by the Knicks wiped out a 75-73 deficit and gave them the lead for good at 84-75 with 2:36 left in the third quarter.

The closest the Hawks got after that was 86-83 in the first minute of the fourth period and 105-102 with 42 seconds remaining.

Celtics 121, Warriors 101
Larry Bird scored 26 points and Kevin McHale added 19 as the Boston Celtics took a big early lead in their hometown and coasted to a 121-101 victory over the Golden State Warriors their 17th consecutive road loss.

It was the Celtics' fifth straight victory and 15th in their last 17 games. Boston has beaten the Warriors 10 straight times at Boston Garden dating back to Jan. 29, 1978.

The Warriors, who have a League-worst record of 6-27, were led by Rod Higgins' 16 points. Ralph Sampson had only one basket and five points before he left with four fouls early in the third period. He was 1-for-11 from the field.

Lakers 121, Rockets 110
Magic Johnson scored 26 of his season-high 39 points in the first half and the Los Angeles Lakers made 18 straight field goals in the opening quarter en route to a 121-110 victory over the Houston Rockets in Inglewood, California.

The Lakers made 19 of 23 shots overall in the first period. Their 18-of-18 string ended when Johnson missed a layup on a fast break, but he made a hook shot in the closing seconds of the quarter to give Los Angeles a 41-22 lead.

After Los Angeles led 72-54 at halftime, 8-2 and 7-0 spurts by the Rockets in the final period made it 115-105, but the Rockets could get no closer.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the leading scorer in NBA history, scored 20 points to put him over the 37,000-point mark in his career. James Worthy and Byron Scott had 22 points apiece for the Lakers.

Akeem Olajuwon topped the Rockets with 24 points, and Joe Barry Carroll added 21.

Results
New York 110, Atlanta 102
Boston 121, Golden State 101
Detroit 123, Denver 116
L.A. Lakers 121, Houston 110
Seattle 115, Indiana 105
New Jersey 117, Phoenix 113
Chicago 117, Washington 103
Dallas 99, LA Clippers 87

Amar qualify for finals

AMAR Cricket Club (ACC) crushed City Boys Cricket Club (CBC) by eight wickets in the semifinals of the Khalid Tournament at the Yarmouk ground on Friday.

After winning the toss and batting first, CBC scored 100 for the loss of nine wickets in the 25 allotted overs. Dinesh was the highest scorer with 31 while Jobo scored 24.

In reply, ACC got the required runs for the loss of only two wickets in 16 overs. Abrar, Man of the Match, was the top scorer with an unbeaten 38. Aneel scored 31 while Pradeep got 23.

Kifco defeat Starlite for crown

KUWAIT International Finance Co. (Kifco) won the Malhotra Trophy Cricket tournament, organised by Unity Cricketers, for the third consecutive season when they beat Starlite two wickets to Ahmadi earlier this week.

Starlite, after winning the toss, sent in Arif and Mansoor to open the innings and face the bowling attack of Tahir and Shahid. Tahir bowled a nice line and length and had the batsmen guessing the time.

Caught
Mansoor failed to get on top of the bowling and offered an easy run-out catch to Tahir with the score at 31. The next batsman, Qayyum, was never happy at the crease and was caught by Aqueel off Tahir for 10.

Arif and Iftikhar settled down and took the score 103 before the former was induced by Maqsood to play a hasty stroke and end up giving a return catch. Arif scored 38 which included nine fours.

Iftikhar and Iqbal Rizvi then added 94 runs for the fourth wicket and looked settled in when Aqueel bowled Iftikhar for

LENDL AND CASH SCORE EASY VICTORIES

Graf routs Mandlikova for semifinals

MELBOURNE, Jan. 19, (Reuters)—Steffi Graf reached her first Australian Open semifinal today by destroying defending champion Hana Mandlikova in 50 minutes of power tennis.

Graf, the world number one, won 6-2 6-2 and will now play fellow-West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, a 6-2 6-4 victor over Australian Anne Minter, on Thursday.

Straight
Chris Evert and Maróna Navratilova will meet for the 76th time in the other semifinal after straight sets victories over West German Claudia Porwik and Helena Sukova, the Czechoslovak sixth seed.

World number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia will face Australia's Pat Cash in the men's semifinals in a replay of last year's Wimbledon final. Cash beat Dutchman Michiel Schapers 6-1 6-4 6-2 while Lendl defeated the last American in the men's draw, Todd Witsken, 6-2 6-1 7-6.

Graf broke Mandlikova, since January 1 an Australian, in the first game and was 4-0 up inside 10 minutes.

The best German's placements were outstanding and Mandlik-

ova was frequently left chasing air as Graf took the ball early on her forehand and hammered it down both wings.

The first set was over in 20 minutes but Mandlikova, foregoing her attempts to counter Graf's forehand at the net, proved a tougher opponent early in the second set, staying back and dragging Graf along the baseline by driving down the lines.

She should have broken Graf's serve in the second game, netting an easy volley at break point, and took four of the first five games to do so.

The 18-year-old from Bruhl still broke Mandlikova in the third and fifth games but the champion brought her home crowd to their feet by breaking back to 4-2.

That was the last point she gained as Graf, yet to drop a set in the tournament, took the next eight points to clinch the match.

"I felt before the match I had a chance but no one hits the ball as hard as she does—that's definite," said Mandlikova who has beaten Graf only once, on clay in the 1986 French open.

"I played her indoors last time. Outdoors it's more difficult to



Navratilova hits a cross-court winner. (Reuters wirephoto)

guess which side she's going to pass me.

"I don't know what we're going to do about her," said Mandlikova with a smile.

"It sure is a damn good result for me. I never thought it would be that easy," said Graf, clearly embarrassed by her success.

Both Navratilova and Evert said they were looking forward to their 14th meeting in a

semifinal. Navratilova, the number two seed, beat Sukova 6-4 7-6 while third-seeded Evert trounced Porwik 6-3 6-1.

"It's fun, it's not boring because you're always in danger of losing. We've played each other in so many matches but we still surprise each other. I expect we'll have a good match," said Navratilova.

"The only time I got hored was

Evergreen edge past Bright Stars

EVERGREEN maintained its winning streak to enter the final of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy cricket tournament with a 35-run victory over Bright Stars at the Sahab Al Salem Area (NC) ground on Friday.

Evergreen, after winning the toss, batted first and opened their innings through Baber and Ejaz. Both the openers, showing tremendous form, put on 128 runs for the first wicket in only 14 overs before Baber was bowled for 74. Baber hit four sixes and seven fours.

Starting
Ejaz was next to go at 165 when he was caught for 70. He hit seven fours and a six.

Razzak, starting from where he left off a day earlier, was again in punishing mood and hit two sixes and three fours in his innings of 54. Rafique Butt (11)



Masood: five for 17

and Asif Ali (11 o.o.) were the other batsmen who got into double figures as the Evergreen total reached 234 for five at the end of 30 overs.

Mohammad Ali, with two for 40, was the most successful bowler for Bright Stars. Aslam, Salim and Arshad Pindiwal also managed to take one wicket each.

Bright Stars ran into trouble when their opener Salim fell on the very first ball of their innings without scoring. Although this put a lot of pressure on the other batsmen, Asghar and Arun, they put up a spirited reply by keeping their heads down and despatching every loose ball to the fence with great ease. Taking full advantage of fielding lapses they put on 120 runs for the second wicket. This stand was broken by Asad Baig when he had Arun caught by Jawaid Masood for 63 studded with eight fours.

After that, the wickets kept on falling at regular intervals and the whole side was back in the

pavilion with 199 on the board. Asghar was the top scorer with 71 runs, including six fours. M. Ali (17) and Tariq (14 n.o.) were the only other batsmen who could get into double figures.

Other
For Evergreen, Jawaid Masood once again stole the limelight by capturing five wickets after giving away only 17 runs with his off and leg-cutters. Zahid Wayen (two for 37), Ashraf Rana (one for seven) and Asad Baig (one for 30) were the other wicket-takers while oob batsman was run out.

Evergreen will meet Siddique Cricket Club in the semifinals of Kuwait Trophy, which is also organised by Kuwait Cricket League (KCL), at the N.C. ground on Friday. This match will be played in the morning at 9.00 am.

English fans hold breath as UEFA meets today

MONTE CARLO, Jan. 19, (Reuters)—English soccer fans will be holding their breath today when the European Football Union (UEFA) meets to consider the return of English clubs to European club competition.

English clubs have been banned from European club competitions since May 1985, when a riot at Brussels' Heysel stadium before the start of the European Cup final left 39 football fans dead.

UEFA's executive committee will meet in a luxury hotel to Moote Carlo today to hear an appeal from the English Football Association to end the ban.

UEFA has already rejected an appeal by the English, but there have been signs that European soccer authorities are ready to put the clubs on probation to see if their notoriously violent supporters have mended their ways.

Watched

"Something has got to move in this affair," Hermann Neuberg, president of the West German Soccer Federation said at the draw for the 1988 European Soccer Championships last week.

Press reports have said English clubs might be allowed to return after the European Championship finals in West Germany in June, when the behaviour of fans following the national side would be watched closely.

UEFA is scheduled to make the draw for the three European club competitions for the 1988/1989 season on July 12.

Even if English clubs were allowed to return, it appears unlikely that Liverpool, clearly the best side in England at the moment, would be allowed to compete in Europe.

Liverpool were penalised with an extra three years in the footballing wilderness after the eventual return of other English clubs because of the role played by their fans in the Heysel disaster.

Watford earn tie against Coventry

LONDON, Jan. 19, (Reuters)—Welsh international Malcolm Allen outshined his fine scoring form yesterday to earn Watford an English FA Cup fourth round meeting with Cup holders Coventry.

He scored for the fourth successive game as Watford, struggling near the bottom of the First Division, beat Second Division Hull 1-0 in their third round second replay.

Allen tapped in at the far post in the 17th minute after Glyn Hodges had flicked on a corner and Will Rostron's diving header had been parried by goalkeeper Tony Norman.

Results

English FA Cup third round, second replay
Watford 1 Hull 0
(Winners away to Coventry in fourth round on Jan 30)

Scottish FA Cup second round, second replay
Arbroath 1 Stenhousemuir 0
(Winners at home to Dundee United in third round on Jan 30)

Falied
Flying Arrows, requiring 6.75 runs per over, were pinned down QMCC's attack bowlers Rashid Sheikh and Ansar although both of them failed to get a wicket.

Jamil took four for 13 to skittle out Flying Arrows for only 59. Sadakat took three wickets for 18. Eknike 19 and Mukesh 13 were the only batsmen to reach the double figures.

Zahid helps Oxford win
OXFORD Cricket Club defeated Gulf Cricket Club by 92 runs in a friendly match at the Sharq Towers ground earlier this week.

Oxford captain Ali won the toss and decided to bat first. Openers Tariq and Mufazzal put on 33 runs for the first wicket. After getting a good start, Oxford went on to score 229 in 25 overs.

Zahid was the top Oxford scorer with 57. Zahid was well supported by Maqsood who hit an unbeaten 46. Tariq chipped in with 39 runs while Ali hit two sixes in his 31.

Gulf Cricket Club were not able to come to terms with the Oxford bowling and were all out for 137. For Oxford, Naem was the main wicket-taker with four for 20. Tahir and Maqsood got two wickets each.

Declared
Sohail bowled well to top the bowling honours with three for 33 in 8.5 overs. Aqueel was declared Man of the Match for his excellent all-round performance. The match was umpired by Viceot D'Souza and Chris Michaels.

Neelkamal Malhotra, the sponsor of the tournament, gave away the prize at the end of the match.

Cubans denied certain Games boxing golds

HAVANA, Jan. 19, (Reuters)—Some of the punch will be gone from the Summer Olympics in Seoul because of the absence of Cuban boxers, probably the best collection of amateur pugilists in the world.

Cuba's decision to stay away from Seoul, in solidarity with North Korea over its demand to co-host the Games, will deprive the Olympics of the boxing team that grabbed a record 10 of 12 gold medals at last year's Pan-American Games in Indianapolis.

Surely

The Cuban absence will also be felt in other sports but it is in boxing, where they won half of their 20-medal tally at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, that gold lay surely within their grasp.

The Cuban squad includes four world amateur champions. Even without great heavyweight

Teofilo Stevenson, who won three successive Olympic golds and was denied a chance at a fourth by the boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games, the Cubans looked likely to be the dominant boxing force in Seoul.

Stevenson, who will turn 36 in March, is no longer on the national team and now devotes his time to coaching.

But he has been replaced by fine young boxers such as world light-heavyweight champion Pablo Romero, light-welterweight Candelario Duvergel and stylish middleweight champion Angel Espinosa, named outstanding boxer at Indianapolis last August.

Other medal hopefuls were to be found in volleyball. The women's volleyball team was a potential gold winner, while the men's team had an outside chance for bronze.



Knut Lundstroom of Norway in action in a 5km race. Lundstroom won the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

World Winter Games for disabled open in Innsbruck

INNSBRUCK, Austria, Jan. 19, (AP)—The fourth World Winter Games for disabled people were officially opened yesterday with a ceremony complete with Olympic flag and a speech from Austrian President Kurt Waldheim.

The Paralympics, last held in Innsbruck in 1984, offer a chance to some of the most agile of the world's 500 million physically disabled people to show their skills at skiing and sledding.

Participate

Organisers said last week that 720 athletes from 22 different countries had said they would participate. The Paralympics run through Sunday in this Tyrolean city, which hosted the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics.

Summer Games for the disabled will take place in Seoul, South Korea, parallel with the 1988 Summer Olympics.

Yesterday's opening ceremony featured the distinctive five Olympic rings on a white flag raised over the Olympic ice stadium where the festivities took place.

Waldheim welcomed the athletes to Austria and wished them success.

Queco Silvia of Sweden has said she will attend at last part of the Paralympics, organisers say. Spain's Queen Sofia and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands also have been invited.

Funding for the Paralympics came from the Austrian government, the government of Tyrol province, Innsbruck city authorities, Austria's sports association for the disabled and the sale of stamps and souvenirs, the organisers said. They have not announced the total cost.

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22 January 1988

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Ahmadi Kart Racing T-shirts available at the clubhouse - a great gift.

For further information contact 3981651

Steroids scandal takes bizarre twist

OSLO, Jan 19, (Reuters): A growing scandal over alleged steroid sales in the world of international speed skating took a bizarre twist today when the central figure in the affair changed his story.

The Norwegian Sports Confederation had said yesterday that Norwegian speed skater Stein Krosby admitted buying Soviet-made steroids for Western currency from Olympic medal hope Nikolai Gulyayev since 1985, during the latter's visits to Norway.

But Krosby, a 21-year-old former body builder, retracted his confession in front of a confederation board of inquiry today after consulting his lawyer.

"During the meeting Krosby gave a different explanation from the one he had given earlier," the confederation said in a statement.

Pressure
Krosby made his original admission last Friday, immediately after the alleged sales first game to light.

"Krosby says he was under pressure ... and that he first had time to think about what had happened in peace and quiet on Monday afternoon," the confederation said. "Our investigation is continuing."

The use of steroids to boost athletic performance is banned by international sports organisations and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The Norwegian confederation has asked the Soviet sports committee for help in its probe.

According to the latest statement, Krosby now maintains that he and Gulyayev made a verbal agreement last year that Gulyayev would supply him with Soviet-made steroids in exchange for Norwegian crowns.

IAAF decision

LONDON, Jan 19, (Reuters): The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has upheld a two-year ban on Swiss athlete Sandra Gasser imposed after she was positively tested at last year's Rome World Championships.

ASIAN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP STARTS TODAY

Pakistanis tipped to brush aside opponents

PAKISTANIS are expected to sweep aside their opponents in the 4th Asian Squash Championship which starts in Kuwait today.

The Pakistan squad boasting players of the calibre of Jahangir Khan, the former world champion, Qamar Zaman, Umer Hayat and Maqsood Ahmed are expected to occupy all the slots in the singles semifinals and also clinch the team trophy.

Deputed
The tournament will officially open today at 6.00 pm at the Al Arabi Sports Club, in the Mansouriyah area, under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah who has deputed Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah to attend the tournament on his behalf.

The Kuwait government has provided all the necessary facilities to ensure the success of the tournament which will end on Jan 30. The president of the Kuwait Squash Federation is himself the head of the organising committee.

The organisers have announced that the opening ceremony will be a simple one. It will include an address by president of the Kuwait Squash Federation, Sheikh Fahd Saad Al Abdullah, followed by an address by the president of the Asian Squash Federation, Dr Edward Jacob, who will arrive in Kuwait today.

Sheikh Saad's representative will then declare the championship open. After the opening of the tournament, an exhibition match will be played between Kuwait's Tareq Al Uwaish and Qamar Zaman.

Although the championship will officially open in the evening, the matches of the tournament will begin this morning at 10.30 am. 44 matches will be played today at the Salmiya and Kazma squash courts.

The important matches to be played today are as follows:

Mahmoud Al Jazaf (Kuwait) vs Antoni Shwa (Singapore) — Kazma Club, Fakher Al Sayed (Kuwait) vs Jarkis Ali (Lebanon) — Salmiya Club, Saleh Al Shammali (Kuwait) vs Mohammed Al Khaled (Bahrain) — Salmiya Club.

The winner of the last match will play Umer Khayat at the same court at 12.30 pm. Osama Al Sayed (Kuwait) meets Grop Tam (Malaysia) — Salmiya Club.

Jahangir Khan (Kuwait) plays Fernando (Sri Lanka) — Salmiya Club, Khaled Al Subaie (Kuwait) takes on King (Hong Kong) — Salmiya Club.

The director of the tournament, Sulaiman Al Randi, announced yesterday that the 14 participating teams had been divided into four groups for the team event.

Group One: Pakistan, Bahrain, Oman and Lebanon.

Group Two: Singapore, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and Iraq.

Group Three: India, Jordan and Palestine.

Group Four: Kuwait, Malaysia and Bangladesh.

Group Two looks the toughest with strong teams from Singapore and Hong Kong. One of these two teams is expected to move into the next round.

Upset
From the other groups Pakistan, Malaysia and India should move into the semifinals, barring some upset in Group Three.

Sulaiman Al Randi also announced yesterday that there would be no entrance fee for the preliminary matches. A nominal fee of 250 fils and half dinar would be charged for the semifinals and finals. The tickets will be available at the Regency Palace Hotel.

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However, at about 7.30 pm, the spokesman noticed a light under the door of a shed belonging to two of the drivers. On examination he found that the lock had been ripped off. He contacted them, and when they arrived at the track they discovered that the equipment they had been preparing for Friday's KNDC race had been stolen.

Suggested
The spokesman said that they believe the break-in occurred on Monday morning, as there had been torrential rain the night before, and a number of signs suggested that the theft had taken place after the storm.

He added that he could see no reason for someone to take this special equipment unless they were interested in karting. Ahmadi police are currently investigating the incident. Meanwhile the Kart Club have tightened their security measures.

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